

Thanks be to God, who always leads us
in triumphal procession in Christ
and through us spreads everywhere
the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

2 Corinthians 2:14



WHICH WILL WE CHOOSE?

Can I have your hearts for a minute, and can I pose a somewhat uncomfortable question for all of us? How long have we crossed the line? As Christians, are we guilty of replacing the one true God with other gods? What is God addressing when He spoke the first commandment in Exodus 20:3: "**You shall have no other gods before me**"? I often wonder if tears are streaming down God's face as He watches us put a multitude of worldly things so far in front of Him.

Can I tell you, that perhaps we have forsaken the one true God without knowing it. The God who says, "**Do not love the world or anything in the world**" (1 John 2:15) We have comfortably tucked away in a place of denial the written words of God defining Himself as a jealous God. And placed so many gods before Him that our obsessive behavior and worldly surroundings have impaired our vision! The Bible says it's like


blindness. Incapable of seeing God for who He really is — the I AM on His throne — the only one deserving of praise, honor and time.

Truthfully, have we become so calloused to this world that it is difficult to know anymore how to separate from it? When God asks to live a divine life as His adopted children, do we translate that to mean I get to do everything I want to do and spend money where I want to spend it as long as I "go to church?" Isn't that what we as Christians do — trade our "divine" life for a "daily" one and then somehow try to justify worshipping our many other gods by at least "going to church" for a couple of hours a week? Stop me if I'm wrong.

What are your gods? Do you know what they are? If you don't, will you be open enough to ask God to show you?

Here are some questions God has brought to the forefront of my mind in the last couple of days as we look honestly into our hearts:

- Why do we spend 3.29 BILLION dollars on a holiday that involves us dressing up (evil or not) and asking strangers for candy? Did you know that 140 MILLION dollars of that was spent on Halloween GREETING CARDS? How can we spend 140 MILLION dollars on Halloween cards when the people in the country of Africa are dying of AIDS and hunger?
- Why do we see Christmas decorations (primarily having nothing to do with Jesus) available in stores in September? Maybe because if we're going to spend the 435.3 BILLION dollars we spent last year, we need at least 3 months to do it!
- Why do we take BILLIONS of pictures a year (and spend billions of dollars doing it) that we look at one time and then do nothing with them of significance like sharing them with others.

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- **Why do we put our children in 10 different activities and then gripe everyday about how busy we are?**
 - **Why do we continue to watch T.V. programs where there is nothing there that honors or glorifies God?**
 - **Why do we let the world define for us our significance and our worth?**
 - **Why do we drive cars that cost more than houses?**
 - **Why do we let the world mold our children into "its" image instead of the image of Christ?**
 - **Why do we have clothes in our closet 3 sizes too small and think we need to keep them because someday we might fit in them again? On that note, why didn't someone put spandex in our clothes years ago? (Making sure we were still paying attention!)**

Spandex humor aside, are we going to stand up and be counted for Christ? Are we, as God's chosen people, ever going to say enough is enough? Are we just going to say it, or are we going to live it? Are we going to ever be obedient to the scriptures that tell us to be in the world but not of it? Am I going to keep comparing my "gods" to your "gods" in hopes that I can justify my gods as the exception? Can we, by the mercy of God, ever forsake our gods like the lyrics of the song, "be children of mercy and grace who bless HIS and only HIS name unapologetically?"

The first commandment is for all of us: "You shall have no other gods before me."

Which will we choose — gods or God?

We cannot choose both.



Memory Text:

"You shall have no other gods before me"? (Exodus 20:3)