

## DEUTERONOMY 13

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### **Man's Innate Desire to Worship**

Is the concept of God or gods a man-made ideal? Of course, we will answer with a resounding **no!** There is a desire in man to explain the existence of himself; thus, the need for The God or gods or something rational to comfort this hunger in the soul. There are those who appear to find comfort in the belief that there is no such deity to be worshipped or to give praise to.

If people have concluded that God is man-made, especially after a study of the religions of the world and psychology, there remains a void in their heart. The unexplained question is, "If God is man-made, then why is it that man has a need to worship?"

This is not a Christian invention. Upon examining the cultures around the world, we find that most, if not all of them, worship a deity of some kind. To call the desire for worship in man ignorance is not a sufficient explanation. Rather than argue with people about the existence of God, I would ask the question, "Why?" Why is it that man has an innate desire to worship a deity or something? Is this a spiritually innate trait of man or is this just the product of his environment? If so, then why is it in man throughout the world to have a desire to worship a deity?

With man's innate desire to worship we must look at man. Is man looking for God because he is created this way, or he needs to explain his existence? The compounding problem is that man is also created with a free will and is able to choose if he will worship God or not. We must realize that deities come in various forms, so we can choose. Greed and materialism is described as idolatry. That is a clear definition of man making a god out of money.

Why is it that man has a desire to worship? It is ingrained in man. He was created this way and looks to find the Father (the originator of all things).

### **Enticers to idolatry to be put to death (vv. 1-5)**

Moses had cautioned against the peril that might arise from the Canaanites. Here he cautions against the rise of idolatry among themselves. It is needful for us to be well acquainted with the truths and precepts of the Bible; we may expect to be proved by temptations of evil under the appearance of good, of error in the guise of truth; and nothing can rightly oppose such temptations but the plain, express testimony of God's word to the contrary. It would be a proof of sincere affection for God that, notwithstanding specious pretenses, they should not be wrought upon the forsake God, and follow other gods to serve them.

### **Relations who entice to idolatry not to be spared (vv. 6-11)**

It is the policy of Satan to try to lead us to evil by those whom we love, whom we least suspect of any ill design, and whom we are desirous to please, and apt to conform to. The enticement here is supposed to come from a brother or child, who are near by nature; from a wife or friend, who are near by choice, and are to us as our souls. But it is our duty to prefer God and religion, before the nearest and dearest friends we have in the world. We must not, to please our friends, break God's law. Thou shalt not consent to him, nor go with him, not for company, or curiosity, not to gain his affections. It is a general rule, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. And we must not hinder the course of God's justice.

### **Idolatrous cities not to be spared (vv. 12-18)**

Here is the case of a city revolting from the God of Israel and serving other gods. The crime is supposed to be committed by one of the cities of Israel. Even when they were ordered to preserve their religion by force, yet they were not allowed to bring others to it by fire and sword. Spiritual judgments under the Christian dispensation are more terrible than the execution of criminals; we have not less cause than the Israelites had, to fear the Divine wrath. Let us then fear the spiritual idolatry of covetousness, and the love of worldly pleasure; and be careful not to countenance them in our families, by our example or by the education of our children. May the Lord write His law and truth in our hearts, there set up His throne, and shed abroad His love!