

## **MANY GODS**

1 Corinthians 8:5-6 ... "For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live."

Archaeologists tell us that man has appointed for himself many gods over the span of human history. During Paul's time, Greeks worshipped many man-made gods. Paul was familiar with Greek society and religion, so today's verse is probably associated with that knowledge. One of Paul's concerns as he served as a missionary and teacher of the gospel to peoples all around the Mediterranean, was the influence that man-made gods had on the people he ministered to. His letters to the churches he started, often warn his converts about the dangers of mixing their old religion with Christianity. The same problem exists today in Filipino society, where converts to Christianity find it difficult to turn away from their former religions and beliefs, their superstitions, and their spirits.

Becoming a Christian is the act of finally finding the one true God, the Father of all mankind, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. And, you receive His Holy Spirit in your soul to guide you to righteousness. Making Jesus your Lord and Savior is the most significant event in your life. It not only ushers you into a right relationship with God, but it puts you on the path to heaven where you will live in paradise forever. When you become born-again, you leave your old life behind along with your pagan beliefs.

The second part of today's passage tells us that Christ is the source of all things and our reason for living. However, Christ is not the source of man-made gods and spirit beliefs. Those are entirely the creation of satan. If you once honored trees and other objects as the homes of the spirits you worshipped, you were really following satan who is a deceiver. If you find it difficult to turn your back on your old pagan beliefs in exchange for a relationship with Christ, it is because you have not fully trusted God and made a commitment to him. Once you turn your life over to Christ, old things are gone. The only way that the old beliefs can still influence you, is if you did not truly give your life to Christ.

Superstitions are the left-over remnants of pagan beliefs. It is not possible to be a born-again follower of Christ and still reverence your old beliefs. God will not share you with satan. He demands that you worship and serve him alone. If you find your old beliefs are still crowding your thoughts and determining your behavior, I urge you to FULLY commit to Christ today. When you are a genuine follower of Jesus, his Holy Spirit will enter your life and show you what needs to change.

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