



WHAT KIND OF GOD DO YOU SERVE?



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Introduction ~ 1



What kind of God do you serve?

- **When I am given a sermon text or title to preach on I ask myself the following questions:**
 - **Why this sermon text?**
 - **What is the sermon or teaching supposed to address or achieve?**
 - **And perhaps what is the target audience?**
- **I ask myself these questions because they help me to understand what is required of me and to be fit for the purposes for which I was given the assignment.**



Introduction ~ 2



What kind of God do you serve?

- **Recent events and subsequent reactions and ramifications have led one to wonder and to ask in one's mind "What kind of God do you serve?"**
- **Please understand that this question is asked of those who have made others to think that they have the God of the Bible as their God.**
- **Simply put, this question is addressed to "professing Christians"**
- **Perhaps a better or more succinct way of putting the question should be "What kind of Christian God do you serve?"**
- **I am not talking of the god of another religion.**



What kind of God do you serve?



What kind of God do you serve?

- From speaking to Christians and reading of the conduct of Christians, I have come to the place of thinking that some have their own “Christian God”.
- It seems that any set of beliefs and conduct can be justified and labelled as being Christian.
- I have almost come to the place of not reading any books or articles written by people of whom I know very little. There is a lot of flip-flopping going on.
- A rather sad state of affairs but that is where we find ourselves. The scripture that comes to mind is “having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.” (2 Timothy 3:5)



Why this question?



What kind of God do you serve?

- Questions are normally asked for a reason.
- To the more discerning person, this is a deeply loaded question. It also makes assumptions.
- This question is not asked so as to make small talk and to while away the time.
- This is a question that seeks to probe the very foundation of a persons set of beliefs and therefore character and conduct.
- This is a question that could come out of a sense of:
 1. Surprise and bewilderment
 2. Disgust and disappointment
 3. Or great amazement and awe – appreciation.



Some reasons for the question



What kind of God do you serve?

- **1 Peter 3:15**
But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
- **The apostle Paul said “for I know whom I have believed” (2 Timothy 1:12c)**
- **Jesus said to the woman at the well “We worship what we know” (John 4:22b)**
- **Have you ever heard of this description of God “The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”**
- **What about the God of our Lord Jesus Christ? (Ephesians 1:17)**



The problem we face ~ 1



What kind of God do you serve?

- Is what is happening now the fulfilment of scripture?
- If it is then we need to sit up and do some serious warfare because there is a war on!

- 1 Timothy 4:1 (New King James Version)

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

- 1 Timothy 4:1 (King James Version)

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;



The problem we face ~ 2



What kind of God do you serve?

- **Galatians 3:1 (English Standard Version)**
O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.
- **Galatians 3:1 (New Living Translation)**
Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross.
- **Galatians 3:1 (New Heart English Bible)**
Foolish Galatians, who has cunningly deceived you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was openly set forth as crucified?



The problem we face ~ 3



What kind of God do you serve?

- **Galatians 5:7 (English Standard Version)**
You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?
- **We have some rather strong words used to describe the problems we face. We have got to sit up!**
 - 1. Seduced**
 - 2. Bewitched**
 - 3. Under a spell**
 - 4. Deceived**
 - 5. Hindered**



The problem we face ~ 4



What kind of God do you serve?

- **2 Corinthians 11:4 – English Standard Version**
For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.
 1. another Jesus than the one we proclaimed
 2. receive a different spirit from the one you received
 3. a different gospel from the one you accepted



Hear some even stronger language



What kind of God do you serve?

- **Galatians 1:6 (English Standard Version)**
I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—
- I am shocked – New Living Translation
- I am amazed – New American Standard
- I marvel – New King James Version
- I am astonished – English Standard Version
- I am surprised at you! – Good News Translation



Just a minute, hold on a second!



What kind of God do you serve?



**Did you ask the
God I serve?
My God serves
me and not the
other way
round!**



Some basic questions



What kind of God do you serve?

- Here are some questions regarding the God you serve. They are in no particular order:
 1. Does your God care for you?
 2. Does your God talk?
 3. Does your God demand answers and explanations for your behaviour?
 4. Did your God make you or did you make your God?
 5. In what gender does your God manifest?
 6. How strong is your God?
 7. How long will your God last? Until the next fad or man or woman of God rolls into town?



Does your God answer prayer?



What kind of God do you serve?



**What is the view
of your “god” on
the question of
prayer?
Does your God
answer prayer?**

Does your God judge sin?



What kind of God do you serve?



**If your God does judge sin then why do you live as you do?
“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”
(Hebrews 9:27)**



This should make you sit up



What kind of God do you serve?

- **Hebrews 12:28 - 29**

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

- **Does your God preach only love and do as you please?**
- **Then He is not the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**
- **Listen again: “For our God is a consuming fire.”**



Is this your Christian God?



What kind of God do you serve?



**For our God
is a
consuming
fire.**



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The God of Jonathan Edwards?



What kind of God do you serve?

- I once read of a woman who said that she did not want her little daughter to meet the God of Jonathan Edwards when she was on her way to bed.
- This statement was made on the basis of the sermon “Sinners in the hands of an angry God” that was preached by Jonathan Edwards in 1741.
- This sermon was based on based on Amos 9:2:
- "Though they dig into hell, From there my hand shall take them; Though they climb up to heaven, From there I will bring them down;
- Adults quaked and cried for mercy when this sermon was preached. We no longer tolerate such sermons.



Is God ashamed of you? Wow!



What kind of God do you serve?

- **Hebrews 2:11**
For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,
- **Hebrews 11:6**
But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.
- He **is not ashamed** to call them brethren,
- Therefore **God is not ashamed** to be called their God



The terrible human tendency ~ 1



What kind of God do you serve?

- There is a terrible tendency in the human heart to mess about with things divine.
 1. So terrible is this tendency that it can boldly declare of a false God "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." (Exodus 32:4b.)
 - To think that Moses had just gone up the mountain for a few days or weeks if you prefer.
 2. Think of what Jeroboam did when he set up an alternative place of worship because he did not want Israel to go back to Jerusalem, the appointed place of worship.
- What will the human heart not do just to get a following and to keep power? (1 Kings 12:31)



The terrible human tendency ~ 2



What kind of God do you serve?

3. Think of the lamentations of Jeremiah.

• Jeremiah 2:11 - 13

11 Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit.

12 Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the LORD.

13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.

•



The terrible human tendency ~ 3



What kind of God do you serve?

4. Now think of the horror of the apostle Paul:

- Galatians 1:8 - 9

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

- Some even strong language: Let him be accursed.





What kind of God do you serve?



Some have graven images as their gods. Some Christians are too sophisticated for that. So instead, they come up with a system of beliefs that draw ever closer to the truth but never touch the real Christian God.



The great announcement



What kind of God do you serve?

- **1 Corinthians 8:6**

5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords),

6 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.

- **For us there is one God, the Father.**
- **And one Lord Jesus Christ.**



My God cares enough to heal ~ 1



What kind of God do you serve?

- **Luke 5:17 (English Standard Version)**
On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.
- This is a great example of a God who cares enough to heal even when His people have not asked specifically to be healed.
- When you serve the true Christian God, when you sit under the ministry of the ministers of the true Christian God He manifests Himself in the meeting and He meets needs as a matter of course.



My God cares enough to heal ~ 2



What kind of God do you serve?

- The healing that God ministers by His Spirit is wholeness in every respect. Among others, this healing can include these real and serious problems:
 - Emotional – depression, fear, anxiety, agitation
 - Psychological – mental
 - Physical
 - Spiritual - healings of every kind
- Please read Isaiah 61 and you will understand what I am talking about.
- Read Jeremiah 8:22 “Is there no balm in Gilead?”
- Jesus, the Christian God, is the Balm of Gilead.



This is my God



What kind of God do you serve?

- **Psalm 3:3**

But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

1. He is my shield

2. He is My glory

3. He is the One who lifts up my head

- **Does you “god” do all these for you?**

- **Actually, is your “god” capable of doing these for you?**



Conclusion and challenge



What kind of God do you serve?

- **How many deviations and detours have your faith taken of late?**
- **Are you contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints? (Jude 1:3c)**
- **Beware the seducing spirits; unseen but very real.**
- **Beware the bewitching teachers and prophets etc.**
- **Beware that which appeals to your self-will.**
- **Now, willingly bow the knee to the Christian God of the Bible otherwise you will do it forcibly one day.**
- **He who was crucified, died, buried, rose again, is now sitting at the right hand of God the Father, who will come back again to judge is the only true God.**

