



❖ MESSAGE NOTES

OMNI: Mistaken deities ~ Week 3

The Bible says God created humans in His own image. The problem is, often, humans have tried to return the favor. When we ask people “What is God like?” we often get answers that are very unlike the God of the Bible, very unlike the God Jesus revealed to us. Imagine if some of these misperceptions about God were real? You would meet characters with a bad case of mistaken identify, thinking they were God, but in reality, being nothing like our OmniGod. Here are five of these Mistaken deities.

The Sheriff God - Harsh and legalistic. The super strict authoritarian. Always focused on wrath and punishment. He only interacts with us through shame and guilt because we are not following every single rule. When we get out of line he punishes us with injuries, sickness, and other painful consequences. You live your life in fear of him and most of the time you try to hide, hoping he won't see you.

The Butler God - The Prosperity Gospel god. The manifesting universe god. He's a genie. He's Santa Clause. He's here only to serve you and give you your every desire. He has no expectations of you or your behavior. He just wants you to be happy, healthy, and wealthy. You treat him like a servant and you only reach out to him when you want something from him.

The Mechanic God - He has an entire universe to run, and he's just barely keeping it all in motion. He has to stay focused on the big problems. You and your tiny little problems are a low priority to him. You know that, so you try not to pray very often because you don't want to bother him. You just try to stay out of his way.

The God In A Box - He's literally boxed in by “we've never done it that way before” and “we've always done it this way before.” He is not allowed to truly be God. He isn't allowed to do anything new or different. You keep him small and controllable. You decide how he thinks. You decide how he acts. He is your caged bird.

The Retired God - Once upon a time, he was in his prime. He set everything in motion. He established moral right and wrong and did some big guidance miracles in the early years to make sure things were sent off on the right track. Then, he took a hands-off approach. He doesn't get personally involved in people's lives anymore. Sure, he hopes we make good choices but how it all turns out is all up to us now. He's retired. You can still pray to him once in a while if you want to. He does like to hear from you. But he also might be taking a nap.

THE GOD JESUS REVEALED

One day Jesus was praying in the Kidron Valley. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, you are to say: “Our Father,... ~ Luke 11:1-2a

PATER ~ GREEK - ABBA ~ HEBREW/ARAMAIC - FATHER or DADDY ~ ENGLISH

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba, Father.” ~ Romans 8:15

And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, who calls “Abba! Father!” ~ Galatians 4:6

Understanding God as our Abba is key.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ~ 1 John 3:1-3

He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, for all things in heaven and on earth were created in Him—all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers—all things were created through Him and for Him. He Himself is before all things and all things are held together in Him. He is the head of the body, the church, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself may become first in all things. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in the Son, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself by making peace through the blood of his cross—through Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven. ~ Colossians 1:15-20

❖ DIVE IN! ~ Discussion Questions

1. What was one thing Pastor G said this week that spoke directly to you?
2. Are you inspired by that to make a decision, make a change, or take some action in your life?
3. Pastor Greg shared these five different “Mistaken deities” with us this week. Which one made the biggest impact on you? Have you ever caught yourself thinking incorrectly about God in one of these ways? Have you ever had a conversation with someone else who seems to think of God in one of these mistaken ways?
4. Greg then talked briefly about God as our Abba, (a perfect, loving Daddy) the way Jesus revealed God to us. When you think about God as your Abba in this way, what are some specific things you know about Him? As you compare this image of God to the five mistaken deities Greg shared how is God different from each of them?