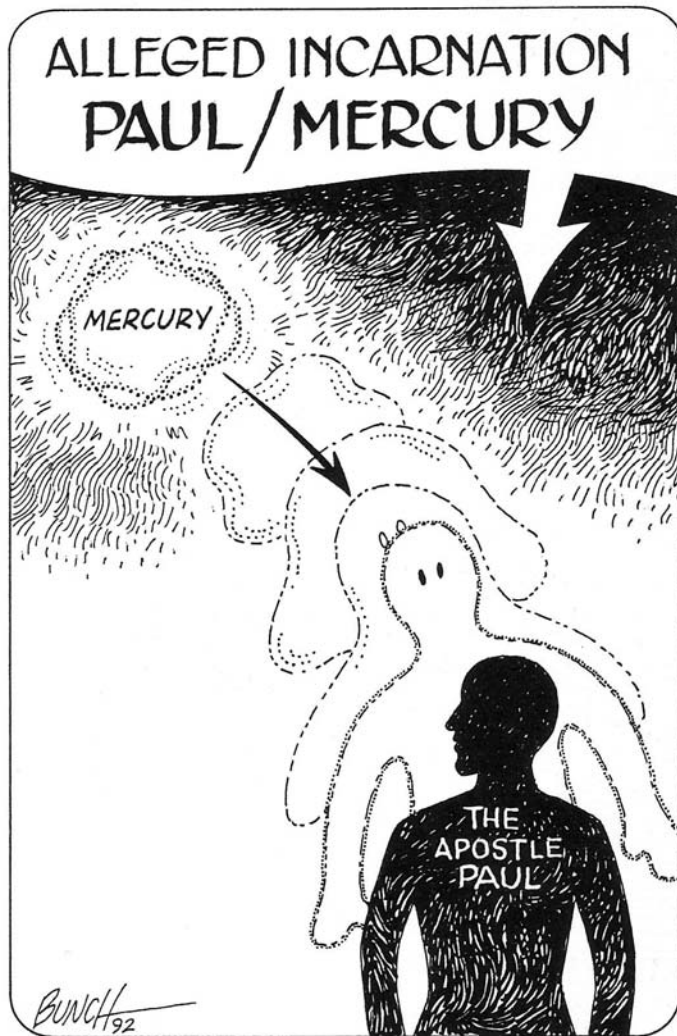
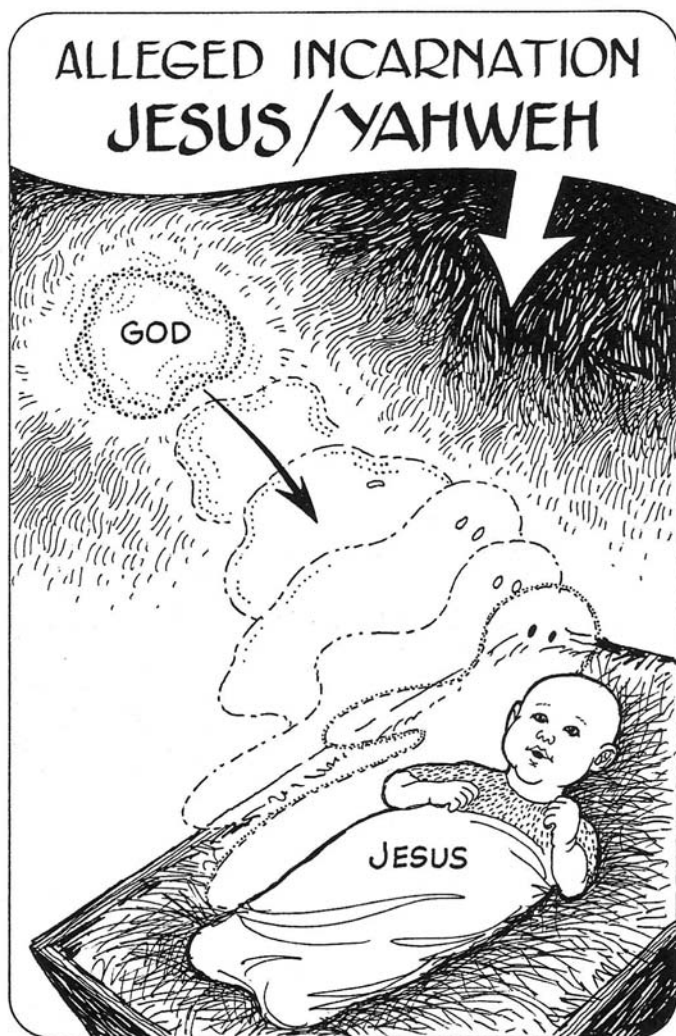


“INCARNATION” INCARNATION The Great Imposture



...The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men...
Acts 14:11

Incarnation: The Great Imposture

WAS JESUS A GOD-MAN?

WHEN Paul and Barnabas were at Lystra (in Asia Minor) spreading the Good News of Christ's Reign, Paul healed a lame man. Witnesses began shouting:

11. *The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.*

12. *And they called Barnabas, Zeus; and Paul, Mercury, because he was the lead spokesman (Gk. "logos").*

Acts 14:11-12

Wait a minute! I thought Jesus was "The Logos." Why does verse 12 say that Paul was the logos? This question will be answered as you read on.

Paul and Barnabas were greatly offended by this. They scolded the people for believing that gods come down from the sky in the form of men.

Alas, pagan beliefs have a way of surviving. Today, churches still teach that God came down from the sky in the form of a man: Jesus. It's the same old pagan doctrine. They refer to this as "**incarnation.**" For churches, this "mystery" is central to their doctrinal foundation.

The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches all teach this. But, like so many of their teachings, this one is completely unbiblical and defies logic and reason. Indeed, their theologians admit that men cannot understand this "mystery" and that we must take it "on faith." By that they mean it must be accepted blindly. Indeed, only the blind could accept it!

However, since the Bible says that God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33), and since the Bible is the highest authority for our beliefs, we must ask, "Does the Bible really teach that God changed into a man?"

NOT IN THE BIBLE

"Incarnation" is never questioned or defined by churchgoers. It sounds important, and since preachers repeat it, it must be right!

Right?

Well, the truth is that neither the

word, nor the concept, is in the Bible. It is a pagan term used by churches.

"Incarnation" is a Latin word meaning "**embodied in flesh.**" It comes from "carne" which means flesh/meat.

"Incarnation," in the typical churchgoer's mind, takes on a bizarre, metaphysical meaning. It envisions ghosts (spirit entities) slipping in and out of flesh bodies – "possessing" them; controlling them. It is a pagan concept portrayed in cartoonish/Hollywood genre.

"**Incarnation,**" according to pagan and Catholic definition (the only official definition available) is "**the assumption of a flesh body by a spirit being.**" This bizarre but popular church doctrine teaches that "spirit entities" (like demons) exist all around us and that they can possess the flesh bodies and minds of mortal men. This is not to be confused with the myth of crossbreeding between supernatural "spirits" and mortals – another pagan myth from Greece and Rome adopted into the churches.

ADOPTED BY CHURCHES

The churches' doctrine of the "incarnation of Christ" (that Yahweh became a man) was an adaptation of Roman myth. Those ideas were not Scriptural. Even some of the early church fathers noticed the influences of paganism on their communities. A hundred and fifty years after Jesus, Justin, in his Apology, wrote to the Greeks:

"...and those who live according to reason are Christians, even though they are accounted atheists. Such were Socrates and Heraclitus among the Greeks, and those like them."

A.N. Whitehead, after a career at Cambridge, came to America and taught for twenty-five years at Harvard University. Speaking of the Greek philosopher Plato's influence he said:

"Twenty-five hundred years of western philosophy are a series of footnotes to Plato."

These, and other pagan origins of western thought, are indelibly imprinted

into church doctrine. As a result, the church world unwittingly embraces non-Biblical, pagan culture. The common belief of gods from the sky possessing the bodies of men hails directly from the Greek and Roman mythologies.

THE "ARIAN HERESY"

The "Incarnation of Christ" was unsuccessfully challenged at the First Ecumenical Council of Nice (Nicea) in 325 A.D. wherein Arius proposed that Jesus and Yahweh were two separate beings.

Arius taught that Jesus issued forth FROM the Father, and therefore was not the Father Himself.

He was condemned as a heretic and exiled ... and many others who rejected "The Trinity" met with death at the hands of the church.

Strangely enough, not long afterward, when Rome fell to the Germanic tribes, the Arian sect held sway in the Roman church for more than three hundred years.

CONSTANTINE

The Nicean Council (325 AD) was moderated by the Roman emperor Constantine who falsely claimed to have converted to Christianity. At Nice, Constantine directed the affairs of the church council in an attempt to unite, under his rule, a divided hierarchy of bishops and priests. On his death bed, after overseeing the murder of Arians for many years, Constantine himself turned to Arianism and was baptized by Eusebius, an Arian bishop and Constantine's historian.

In Merrill's *Essays in Early Church History*, we read:

"It is not likely that Constantine cared very much about which doctrine should come off victorious in the discussions and votes. He did not aspire, like Henry VIII of England, to be a theologian. But he wanted harmony in the Church for political reasons... He doubtless hoped in advance that decisions might be reached acceptable to both sides."

From this quote, the reader can

easily see that the idea of the incarnation was not universally accepted. Indeed, since there were two sides, there were at least two ideas about who/what Jesus actually was. In fact, the opposition was notable.

Regarding the “essence of Christ” they wrangled over the two terms: “*Homoousian*” (same essence) and “*Homoiousian*” (similar essence) to define the relation of Jesus to his Father.

In the *Documents of the Christian Church*, by Bettenson it states:

“The decisions of Nicea were really the work of a minority, and they were misunderstood and disliked [even] by many who were not adherents of Arius.

In particular the terms “*ἐκ τῆς οὐσίας*” (out of the essence) and “*ὁμοουσιον*” (same essence) aroused opposition, on the grounds that they were unscriptural, novel, tending to Sabellianism.

Athanasius (the arch enemy of Arianism) was twice exiled, and when ninety bishops assembled at Antioch for the dedication of Constantine’s ‘Golden Church,’ a council was held and a ‘Creed of the Dedication’ put forward as a substitute for that of Nicea ... (p. 57).

One of America’s noted theologians, Henry P. Van Dusen, further states what happened at the Council of Nicea, in his book, *World Christianity* (p. 72):

“The East was seething with more violent dispute over correct theological interpretation of Christ’s person. Hence, Constantine summoned all the bishops of the Church to assemble at Nice in 325. The 318 bishops who responded represented only about a sixth of the bishops of the [Roman] Empire. They came predominately from the East. Constantine’s principal ecclesiastical advisor, Bishop Hosius of Spain, presided, with the emperor at his right hand. The weight of imperial influence swayed the decisions. The early form of the Nicene Creed was the outcome.”

Thus, at Nice, Constantine – a Sun worshipping follower of Mithras – in pursuit of unity, “swayed the decisions” and determined what his church would believe ... even to this very day! The church world was given a philosophical theory of Jesus as God in a man’s flesh, and was told that any who would not believe it should be put to death.

ARIANISM CONDEMNED BY EMPEROR

There are those today who still be-

lieve that if you do not confess this Catholic doctrine of “The Trinity” you are a heretic and worthy of death. They proudly claim to believe a doctrine they cannot possibly begin to explain or understand ... a doctrine canonized by Constantine and 318 Roman Catholic bishops. Ironically, Constantine, and his cohorts, abandoned their mandate a few years later and adopted Arianism. The emperor cannot be wrong even when he opposes himself! It’s one of the perks of kings.

But, initially, when Arianism was condemned by the Nicean Council, the church’s response was to do what it has always done – it destroyed all the evidence: books, papers, etc.. Constantine wrote in an early letter addressed to all the bishops and people:

“If any treatise composed by Arius should be discovered, let it be consigned to the flames, in order that not only his depraved doctrine may be suppressed, but, also, that no memorial of him may be, by any means, left. This, therefore, I decree, that if anyone shall be detected in concealing a book compiled by Arius, and shall not instantly bring it forward and burn it, the penalty for this offense shall be death. May God preserve you.”

Ironically, Constantine proved to be the ultimate hypocrite when he (and his kingdom) later recanted the Athanasian creed and adopted Arianism — vindicating the martyrs they had slain!

451 AD: CHALCEDON

At the Council of Chalcedon, in 451, the doctrine of “the Incarnation” was again reinstated and fully “fleshed out.” The thing that is eye-opening about both these councils (Chalcedon and Nicea) is that they solved matters by absorption. Some said Jesus was a man; some said He was a god. So, the embattled participants were supplied with a double FORMULA to which they could all subscribe with reasonable satisfaction by the simple device of selectively underscoring one of the two phrases which best represented his own interests. Dr. Van Dusen, in his *World Christianity*, scoffs at the wording ... and at church politics:

“...the Catholic Church [wanted] ‘both...and,’ ... and the disputants [insisted upon] ‘either...or.’”

“Nicea, Constantinople, Chalcedon are the successive landmarks on the torturous route ... At Chalcedon, a century and a half later than Nicea, the

same method of solution was even more badly employed – not ‘either...or,’ but ‘both ... and,’ – a solution by inclusion rather than by rejection, at whatever cost to logical coherence and rationality.” (they claimed that Jesus was simultaneously both “fully man and fully God” – i.e., both mortal and immortal.)

The question each reader should ask is this: Has his understanding of Jesus Christ been influenced by the Council of Chalcedon, or some other teaching of the pagan churches? Do we know who gave us the beliefs we hold?

It is a bitter pill to wake up one day and realize that we’ve been chasing after a pagan goose instead of the Jesus of the Holy Bible.

“DISTILLED NONSENSE”

Yet “*the formula of Chalcedon*,” writes Dr. Van Dusen on page 75, “*met its dilemma by affirming, side by side, the contradictory contentions of the two disputant parties, without serious attempt at reconciliation.*” That was their way out of the dilemma. Chalcedon’s definition of Christ’s nature (“*two natures, without confusion, without division, without separation, ... not divided or separated into two persons, but one*”) has been described by Dusen thus: “*to the logical mind, distilled nonsense.*” The Bible simply calls it “double mindedness” – believing that opposites can be the same! A double-minded people can be made to believe almost anything ... and they usually do. As a result, they live confused in a political, religious and economic matrix called Mystery Babylon.

“FATHER” IS NOT “SON”

As stated earlier, the Bible is the final authority for Christians. As Jesus said: “Your word is truth.” (John 17:17). And God’s Word clearly reveals that Jesus is the SON – not the Father.

Concerning Jesus’ relationship with His Father, Jesus said, “*The Father is greater than I am*” (John 14:28). Jesus vigorously condemned hypocrisy; yet, what glaring hypocrisy people attribute to Him by saying He is cunningly tricking mankind by mysteriously being his own Father incognito!

If He was the Father masquerading as His own Son then the Gospel would have been a deception: a trick. He could

not have been mortal; not tempted to sin; never died; never prayed to His Father; wasn't a real son; didn't suffer; needed no faith; achieved no victory over death; was no example to us.

Thankfully though, the simplicity of the Word shows the plain fact that Jesus truly was a man. He was born a mortal and didn't become immortal until He was raised from the tomb. He became "the Firstborn" Inheritor of God's estate; "the Firstfruits" of the New Creation of Isaiah 65:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Hebrews 1; Revelation 21:1-2!

PRE-EXISTENCE?

Jesus did not "pre-exist." No one can pre-exist. The concept is a contradiction. A thing either exists ... or it does not exist. It cannot exist before it exists. The term "pre-exist" is an oxymoron.

Churches teach that Jesus existed in "spirit form" before He took on mortal flesh. This pagan view of man is linked to the concept that all men are immortal spirits (or souls) that have taken on a covering of flesh.

The truth is, God created man, not a "spirit," but a mortal biological creature. We begin to exist when we are conceived and born – not before. Jesus was born a mortal. Notions of "incarnation" are read into the Scriptures by pagan-minded preachers, philosophers, and theologians. The Creator (YHWH) created Jesus in Mary's womb. That's when He began to exist.

JESUS HAD A BEGINNING

The Bible teaches that there is one Father; that He is IN Christ ... as Christ is IN us. Yahweh was not born, whereas Jesus was: Matt. 1:18:

18. Now the origin of Jesus Christ was thus...

The word for "origin" is "γεννησις" (genesis) meaning "BEGINNING." Jesus began as a creation of God. He began as a mortal, born of a woman. He didn't begin immortal. He became immortal when Yahweh raised Him from his tomb after He had died.

"SPIRIT BEINGS" & "IMMORTAL SOULS"

As previously stated, belief in the doctrine of incarnation requires belief in so-called "spirit beings" – minor gods if you will. The doctrine of incarnation comes in a package with other doctrines that accompany it ... for instance "the immortal soul" doctrine. Acceptance of any one of these doctrines, in effect, saddles you with a host of other pagan doctrines. One who accepts the theory of incarnation must then accept the doctrines of reincarnation, spirit entities, immortal souls, demonology, angelology, and a myriad of other idolatries – most of which the whited-sepulchres (churches) have adopted. They are "full of dead men's bones" (Mtt. 23:27).

This body of doctrine leads to the theory that God became a mortal man in the person of Jesus. Belief in "spirit entities" and "incarnation" critically alters the meaning of "life" and "death" as it relates to mankind.

The following "Question/Answer" excerpted from THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, Chapter Two helps to unravel more of the puzzle:

QUESTION:

If God can do anything He wants, isn't it possible that He became flesh and died - in the form of Jesus - and then brought Himself back to life?

ANSWER:

In order for people to accept the theory that Yahweh "died," they must change the definitions of the words "death," and "life."

"Death" is cessation of life - not an alternate form of life. Those who say that the Immortal Creator died must also redefine "immortality." To be immortal is to be incapable of death. To claim that God died, and then gave Himself life again, is to say that "death" is not really death ... that it is only an alternate state of life - a state from which one revive himself.

However, the state of true death is a state of total lifelessness and powerlessness.

Life comes only from life. It cannot generate out of death.

"Death" is not by degree - it is all or nothing. Like the word "stop," "death" indicates a cessation. "Stop" does not mean "slow," and "death" does not mean "alive in an alternate state." One cannot partially die, or be partially alive, any more than a woman can be partially pregnant.

Those who claim that Yahweh is Jesus, and that Yahweh Himself died, must ignore word meanings. They misuse words. They can't really think He died. They must theorize that He went into an alternate state of life. In order for their theories to work, Yahweh couldn't have fully died because that would have

left no one to raise Him back to life.

If God had truly died, His power of life would have been gone. Obviously, this is not what they mean. Instead, they theorize that God gave an illusion of death, when in fact He was not dead at all. They allege that his spirit continued alive. Thus He was still alive and capable of accomplishing the miracle. When they say "Yahweh died," they are not being truthful. In reality they are claiming that "his flesh died, but his spirit did not die."

According to their theory Jesus/Yahweh was not truly dead. But, this gets ridiculous.

Death is not an alternative form of life. If Jesus did not fully cease to live, then He did not die at all, and we have to face the unpleasant idea that our hope in a risen Savior is in vain.

12. Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no raising of the dead?

13. But if there be no raising of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

17. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; you are yet in your sins.

1 Cor. 15:12, 13, 17

Scripture is logical and clear. Jesus, God's Son, died (ceased to live) and was raised from death by his Father.

On the other hand, Yahweh, who is self-existent, cannot and did not die.

JOHN 1:1

Because of these basic errors in theology, churches have twisted, mis-translated and misread the first chapter of the Gospel of John for centuries. The churches misread John 1:1 to say: "*In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God.*" Church people who have heard it read this way over and over have come to accept it. However, that is NOT what this verse says. The correct rendering is:

1. In the beginning was the communication (the logos). And the communication was regarding God. And God was the communication (i.e., God was expressing Himself).

Some may say, "Yes, but Jesus is the Word: the Logos!" However, as you can see, that is not what this verse says. You cannot find the word "Jesus" there. Rather, it says that God was the logos. "Logos" means "communication."

In fact, a few verses later (vs 14) it says that the communication (logos) BECAME FLESH. In other words, in due time God finalized his communication with man by expressing Himself in flesh ... through his Son. Jesus was the image of his Father expressed in flesh.

3. *Who being the light of his glory, and the express image of his essence, ... sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

Heb. 1:3

THE COMMUNICATION

The real question of John 1:1 is this: Who, or what, is “the logos?” Genesis 1:1 clearly tells us that YHWH, alone, existed in “the beginning.” Therefore, it was YHWH who communicated to man in “the beginning.” That communication to Adam was the first “logos.” It was God’s word. His law.

16. *And Yahweh God commanded Adam ...*

Gen. 2:16

It is a fact that the term “logos” was used for God, Jesus and Paul. This makes perfect sense because the word “logos” means “communication.” Paul was called “the logos” in Acts 14:1.

God’s logos came first in the form of law commands to Adam.

Later, when Jesus came upon the scene, God’s logos took on the form of flesh. That came NOT in the beginning but AFTERWARD! Don’t misread it.

Yahweh communicates to mortal man. In Hebrews 1:1-2 we read:

1. *God (Yahweh) who at sundry times and in divers manners SPOKE in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*

2. *Has in THESE last days SPOKEN (communicated) to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He fulfilled the ages...”*

God spoke (communicated) **to** Adam and **to** the prophets. But NOW He speaks (communicates) **through** His Son, Jesus. “Paul, too, spoke as Jesus’ logos. In the beginning” Yahweh spoke. Later his word came via his prophets. Jesus was, of course, his greatest Logos.”

Men communicate with each other

by way of symbols ... words, pictures, or sign language. These symbols communicate ideas and thoughts. God, likewise, revealed Himself by communication using symbols that were understandable to men. Jesus is the ultimate symbol: the best logos God could give us.

God reveals Himself to man in three ways: (1) By spirit: He inspires people. (2) By his word: the Scriptures. (3) By his Son, Jesus Christ: our Reigning King.

GOD EXPRESSED IN MAN

Jesus is God’s Word (Logos) in living form. He is our Mediator and Ambassador. As 1 Tim. 2:5 states: “*For there is one God (Yahweh) and one mediator between God and men, the **MAN** Christ Jesus...*”

But, what of 1 Tim. 3:16 which says (in the authorized King James Version) that “God was manifest in the flesh?” Even if this was a correct translation it would be explainable. However it was mistranslated. In fact, the Greek text says, “Which was manifest in the flesh ...” (not “God was manifest in the flesh.) That word, “which,” refers back to “the mystery of godliness” – the obvious subject of the sentence. That “mystery” that was a thing to be learned. It was the question of how flesh could reflect godliness. Of course, it was accomplished in Jesus ... and subsequently in those He called to Himself. Indeed, the infusion of eonian life into man’s heart is the epitome – the present legacy – of this “mystery of godliness” in which we are allowed to share.

What have we learned from all this? 1) The Councils of Nicea and Chalcedon mixed paganism with the truth and ended up with “distilled nonsense”; 2) Jesus was not a “pre-existent” “spirit person,” nor was He a second person of a pagan trine god. Instead, He issued from God. He was BORN and had a beginning; and He INHERITED the Kingdom of God as High Priest and King; 3) Jesus began as a mortal, not a god-man, because His mission was to be an example to mortal men; 4) If Jesus was Yahweh masquerading in human flesh, that would have made Him a trickster because He referred to the Father as a real being who was greater than He; 5) If Jesus had been Yahweh, then He could not have died on the cross. An immortal cannot die, nor can the dead raise themselves!

The inevitable conclusion is that Scripture does NOT teach that Jesus was

a god-man. Instead, it teaches that He was a mortal man, uniquely created for a unique purpose. His mission, as a representative mortal man (“the Son of Man”) was to be the Lamb of God, to suffer and die to expose the sin of mankind (expressly Israel), to be raised to immortality and Kingship, and to direct the affairs of His present Kingdom in this present age.

Those who teach that Jesus was a god-man teach falsehoods. As is often the case, such fallacies are spawned from paganism and mythology. In this case the error was facilitated by the heathen doctrine of “incarnation” (along with the doctrine of “the immortality of the soul”).

You are free to believe what you will. But, men should stop trying to divest Jesus of His proper position as the Head of the Kingdom of God on Earth. We should learn from His example and do the work of the Father here and now. Those who believe otherwise believe in a different “Jesus” – one that is detached from reality, unattainable and incapable of being understood.

When churches teach that God can become a man (a god-man) they are facilitating the same lie that brought down Adam ... namely, that “*You will be as a god, knowing good and evil.*” That, after all, is the center of mankind’s problem. It is the natural result of rejecting God. And sadly, it is being perpetuated by churches teaching that man can make his own law without God (i.e., know good and evil on his own). To facilitate this churches have done away with God’s law.

The following letter to the editor of our local paper states the case well:

To be a god is to do your own thing, the very thing that the adversary deceived Eve into doing at the start.

The Bible teaches that Christ did His Father’s will and not His own (Jn 5:30). The doctrine that teaches that Jesus is God leads one to assume that Christ did His own thing. Since Jesus is the believer’s pattern of conduct, those who see Jesus as God will likewise begin to answer to no one but themselves, and become “gods” [after the pattern of] their perceived lord.” (MMT, 4/29/92)

To claim that Jesus is the Father is to deny that He is the Son: the central truth of the Bible. Rejection of this truth is defined as “anti-Christ” (1 Jn.4:2-3; 2 Jn.1:7).

Beware the teachings of pagans claiming to be Christians!