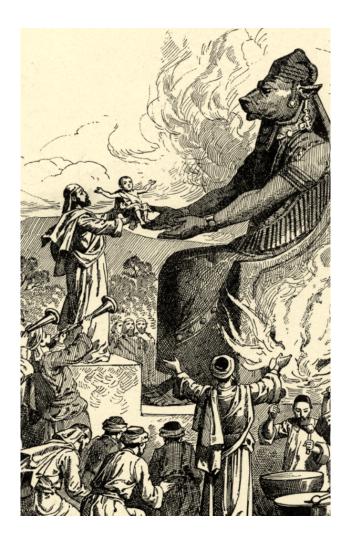


Degraded caricature of the true God.

Knowing God, not as God do they glorify or thank Him, but vain were they made in their reasonings, and darkened is their unintelligent heart.

-Paul, Romans 1:21



here is no surer path to moral disintegration than to worship a degraded caricature of the true God.

"Knowing God, not as God do they glorify or thank Him." This is the snare of both religion and the world. I think one of the biggest revelations imparted to me in the last twenty years is the existence of two categories of unbelievers: religious and worldly. The religious unbelievers are the more dangerous and despicable of the two because they *think* they have truth. God cuts both groups from the same cloth, however, as I will explain.

THE WORLDLY UNBELIEVER

The worldly unbelievers are misguided on two counts. Not only are they aware of the beauty and power of nature while denying the Mind behind it, but they buy into the religious depiction of God—a caricature of the true.

I speak of the caricature of God invented by religious unbelievers, namely Christianity: God is the mean old man with the pointy, yellow teeth and matching disposition. He rubs his gnarly hands together, waiting to pull the rug out, forever, from unsuspecting sinners. The worldly person can hardly ignore that image. It pervades our culture, compliments of your friendly neighborhood Christian church. Barely a man, woman or child alive has not heard of the terrifying Christian god who tortures his enemies for all eternity—in spite of sending his Son to save these very people. The Christian god loves you unconditionally—as long as you love Him back. Apparently, he's afflicted with the human personality disorder known as co-dependency. This is the least of his troubles. He is also a megalomaniac and a sadist.

Competing with this is the testimony of nature. The testimony of nature witnesses to the true God. The voice of Christianity drowns it out, however. The Christian

religion destroys more people than the beneficent testimony of the rolling ocean and the sparrow's song saves.

The worldly unbeliever will be able to say to God at the Great White Throne: "The world was inundated with false images of You. I never saw You truly. There were too many church signs, Christian billboards, and TBN specials. The smokescreen of popular religion misled me. I thought You were actually like that."



"I never knew You. There were too many church signs, Christian billboards, and TBN specials."

The counter-argument from God will be, "I understand. But you were also aware of my goodness and power through the testimony of nature." This will shut the mouth. The nature argument renders every human being "defenseless" (Romans 1:20). It's God's trump card. It isn't that God conducts cross-examinations at the Great White Throne to discern facts for Himself; He already knows everything. The purpose of this bar is to expose the hearts of the ones judged, for these individuals' personal knowledge and ultimate benefit.

THE RELIGIOUS UNBELIEVER

God will subject the religious unbeliever to harsher judgment, for the religious unbeliever (i.e. the Christian man or woman) is complicit in the spread of the false image. As Paul testified concerning the Jews in Romans 2:24, "For because of you the name of God is being blasphemed among the nations, according as it is written."

If the person tripping upon the false God is judged, what shall we say of the judgment of those staging, producing, and promoting the trip wires? This is the horror (the future horror) of being a Christian: standing before God having been an accomplice (albeit unwitting, in most cases) to the worst crimes against humanity. True, modern Christians did not invent the demonic teachings driving humanity from God, but participation in the religion is evidence enough to indict. Sheep will be less accountable than shepherds. No one can stop the steamroller of lies, but one *can* jump off the steamroller. Those who don't are complicit and will answer for it.

I know how distasteful this sounds, but Jesus described it well in Luke 17:1-2,

Now He said to His disciples, "Incredible is it for snares not to be coming. Moreover, woe to him through whom they are coming! An advantage were it to him if a mill-stone were lying about his neck and he were pitched into the sea, rather than that he should be snaring one of these little ones."

No Christian applies this verse to him or herself, which itself testifies to the strength of the deception. Christians apply this verse to bar owners and pornographers. This is not our Lord's context at all. Jesus had just finished a five-part parable condemning the self-righteous Pharisees. The context is clearly a religious one. Religion is God's vilest enemy. By defaming Him, it wreaks more damage upon the human race than any other influence.

This section of Romans explains why: God is not glorified or thanked as God (Romans 1:21). His glory and majesty are replaced by demon-inspired theologies about Him, incubated in the hen house of tradition, and broadcast world-wide by those imagining themselves to be God's dearest friends. With friends like these, who needs enemies?

At the Great White Throne, I would rather be pornographer Larry Flynt than evangelist Joyce Meyer. I would rather be a beer salesman than the architect of the Crystal Cathedral. I ought to simply resort to Jesus' words, for they are true and more shocking: I would rather have a millstone hung around my neck and be pitched into the sea (Jesus called this "an advantage"), than to be complicit in the snaring of a true seeker.

At the Great White Throne, I would rather be Charles Manson than Billy Graham. Don't mock, because I am serious. You believe the words of Jesus Christ concerning the millstone, correct? Billy Graham, Jonathan Edwards,

Benny Hinn, Billy Sunday, and countless other so-called men and women of God have snared millions of innocent people. Charles Manson, on the other hand, ordered the killing of a mere nine human beings. I can say "mere" only in comparison to the millions damaged and deranged by the modern "god" message. I can only consider murder the better alternative compared to the slow, miserable death of religious worry, guilt, and fear. It is these religionists, therefore, who deserve worse than the millstone. Manson merely gets life in prison.

The priesthood incurs greater judgment than Pontius Pilate (John 19:11). You may have been shocked to learn that I favor Manson over Graham at the Great White Throne. You would be equally surprised, then, to hear Jesus practically vindicating Pilate—a cruel man of the nations with the blood of thousands upon his hands—and hanging the millstone around the necks of the priests of Israel, who supposed that they were behaving righteously.

The case against the priests is: they had the Scriptures, claimed to be wise, saw Christ, witnessed some of His miracles, heard His testimony, yet used their personal image of god to serve themselves.

Wake up and smell this: the greatest evils existent today seep from those purporting to know Him. These evils spread like gangrene because people blindly trust the source. The deadliest evils kill in the name of the One Who will one day redeem all evil. The Christian god is more detestable than that of the Muslims; the Christian god is close to the truth, but so far away. Allah, isn't even close.

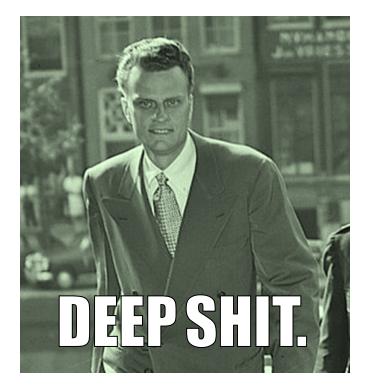
Christianity is a negative image of truth.

THE PHARISEE SYNDROME

Billy Graham was an unbeliever. His confession was that mankind saves itself by exercising its will. "No will, no salvation," was that man's creed. If a man chooses to be lost, then poor Christ crucified hangs helpless. That's how Graham saw it. Jesus wishes He could help, but He can't. The socalled Dr. Graham has foisted this sad tale of divine failure upon millions. He wrote good-looking books about it. He advised presidents, and yet, of all humans who have walked the earth in my lifetime, Billy Graham is the man I most pity. I would sooner shake Jeffrey Dahmer's hand, than his. In the Day of Judgment, stand as far away as possible from the tents of Billy Graham, for on that day the "earth" shall open and consume him. Besides Satan's, Graham's knee will be near the last to bow. Only one Crusade will matter to him then—Christ's "crusade" to reveal Himself. Graham will finally be brought to tears before the God he never knew.

Jesus convicts the religious again in Matthew 23:13,15—

"Now woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are locking the kingdom of the heavens in front of men. For you are not entering, neither are you letting those entering to enter. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are going about the sea and the dry land to make one proselyte, and whenever he may be becoming one, you are making him more than double a son of Gehenna than you are."



No Pharisee escapes alive. Rather, God subjects this lot to a stricter judgment. If only they believed in the saving work of Christ, they would pass from judgment into life. Instead, they believe the lies of their father, the Adversary. They embrace not one essential element of the gospel of the grace of God. God is the Savior of all humanity, yes (1 Timothy 4:10), but this fails to affect my previous contention. Christians will be the last among humanity to be saved. I base my belief on the words of Jesus, above, and also the words of Paul in Romans 2:21-27: the Jews, boasting in law, are blaspheming God's name and dishonoring Him. Simultaneously, the nations, who had no law, will judge the Jew who, through letter and circumcision, are transgressors of law. In other words, the responsibility of "a teacher of others," failing, carries with it heavier accountability and stricter judgment. Again, belief in Christ would deliver from judgment, but because of a deadly self-confidence ("human free will"), judgment remains.

If the nations are judging the Jews, the Jews are saved behind them. How ironic.

The professed belief of all hypocrites is unwittingly feigned (1 Corinthians 15:2).

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have had no sin. Yet now you are saying that 'We are observing.' Your sin, then, is remaining" (John 9:41).

Besides the Pharisees of Jesus' generation, no generation of feigned believers has failed more spectacularly than modern-day Christian teachers, pastors, and evangelists. Never has Christianity been so accepted. Never in history has a religion inspired so *much* fashionable jewelry and celebrity. Christianity is the largest, most popular cult in the world. This is why I am known for



saying, "God is the Savior of all humanity—even Christians." I can understand God saving the likes of Larry Flynt, Lady Gaga, even Charles Manson. What drives me to laud Him the most is His benevolence toward Billy Graham, Billy Sunday, Benny Hinn, and Joel

Osteen. It is a testimony to God's vast love, grace, and patience. He carries with much patience vessels of dishonor (Romans 9:22).

THE MEANING OF HIS NAME

"Knowing God, not as God do they glorify or thank Him." The name "God" is, in the Greek, "*Theos*," meaning "placer, or subjector." God's name says what He does: He subjects. He is sovereign. Paul is making the case here for a sovereign God Who operates all in accord with the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11). Human degradation (which includes the catalog of sins in Romans 1:29-32), begins with a failure to acknowledging God as God and honor His universal placership.

"For in Him, we live and move and are" (Acts 17:28).

Christianity tells us this is not so. We may live in Him, but we do not move in Him. Instead, we each have our own wills. I speak of the doctrine of human free will which, in my opinion, is the most damaging doctrine of all—damaging and fatal. Fatal to what? To true belief. (A person believing in human free will must deny the efficacy of Jesus Christ's faith, confessing instead a salvation based on *their* faith placed freely *in* Jesus Christ.) Such belief is fatal to a true recognition of God, whose very name ("Placer") is all that's needed to disprove the doctrine of human free will.

Then there is the teaching of eternal torment. Not only does this teaching fail to glorify God, it makes Him crueler than any earthly potentate. Hitler incinerated millions of Jews in his ovens, but could never torment them for eternity. For sophisticated, never-ending torture such as that, we must look to the Creator of the universe, Who sent His Sweet Lamb to rescue humanity from sin and death. If only it had worked. My! Could there be a more demeaning teaching? As a friend of mine recently and rightly said, "God is the most maligned, misrepresented Being in the universe."

Because of this, the world slides into moral disarray. Nowhere is the slide faster than where Christian influence shouts the loudest. This is why, compared to the West, undeveloped countries still live with relative integrity. They don't kill each other as often as we do. Ah, be patient. We have yet to send them our best and brightest evangelists. Give us time. Tender your local missionary a dollar, and he or she will hurry off to the bush to make happy tribespeople double the sons of Gehenna that they are. —MZ