

## Personal Being or Silly Putty God?

By Jesse Larsen

I decided to write this article due to continual false accusations that I have seen towards those who hold a Biblical worldview. I have seen many such accusations mainly through comments on You Tube videos just about any time the purpose of the video is to express a Biblical worldview.

Such comments include accusations that the speaker in the video “wants people to follow them,” or that “Christians think that they have the only right religion.” It is obvious to me from the many times that I have seen these comments that the majority of people do not understand what Christianity is in the first place.

Christianity is **not a religion** at all, but a relationship with God. So this is why the statement that “Christians believe they have the only right religion” is simply not true. Anyone can call themselves a Christian, but true Christians are not followers of religion – they follow Jesus Christ! There is a **huge** difference which I hope will be made clear through this article.

First of all, Jesus was not some philosopher (like the founders of various religions), but the following verses reveal that He was the very God who created us: John 1:1-18, 1 John 5:7, Colossians 1:15-19, Isaiah 9:6, John 14:7-10 and 1 Timothy 2:5. And the teachings of Jesus are the basis of Christianity.

Since God did not come out of the minds of man, Christianity cannot be counted among the world’s religions. Simply put, religion is something that man has created, but God created us! So I think He deserves some reverence for that. Yet many people who make the false accusations that I have mentioned here (including some who appear to believe in a “god” of some sort), have a mindset which implies that God has no views of His own, or that He is a silly putty god who can be molded into our own image.

It is true that man was created in the image of God, but that image has clearly been distorted by man’s rejection of Him: “*God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes*” (Ecclesiastes 7:29). We live in a world full of rapists, child molesters and murders – and anyone who has watched the show “Americas Most Wanted” even a few times should figure out in a hurry that the **continual** human depravity being reported is not how God intended man to be. To imply that it is does not help anyone, but only makes God Himself look like a monster, thereby turning people away from Him.

The words “*choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve*” (Joshua 24:15) clearly imply that God has given man a choice in the matter. Otherwise we could not truly love Him, but would simply be programmed to “love” (which is not really love at all). So even though man was made upright in the beginning, he chose to reject God. And we now have the mess that the world is in today as the result. Yet man keeps relying on man for solutions rather than God, no matter how many times man messes things up.

In contrast to man’s continual, naive relying on man, the Bible itself states, “*Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord*” (Jeremiah 17:5). Those words ought to be haunting **especially** to those who are following one of the many man-made religions of this world, as should the words to this next verse: “*Not everyone who says to Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven*” (Matthew 7:21).

These words are the very words of Jesus Himself, which means that the ecumenical crowd who most often takes issue with this teaching are in fact taking issue with what Jesus Himself

taught, even though many of them claim to follow Him. Jesus is either *“the way, the truth and the life”* as He claimed in John 14:6, or He is not. If you believe that He is not, then please don't pretend to honor Him. The many people who do so have only caused a great amount of confusion about what Christianity is.

The Bible also warns against following *“another Jesus”* in 2 Corinthians 11:3-4. Yet those who warn of the same thing today are commonly accused of being arrogant, or thinking that they have the only right Bible interpretation. In contrast to many of these accusers (who really only imply that God Himself has no views of His own, and it is therefore up to us to make up any religion we want), the Bible itself states that *“interpretations belong to God”* (Genesis 40:8)! We are also told that it is **His Spirit** (which anyone who has truly received Him will have indwelling them) that *“searches...the deep things of God”* (1 Corinthians 2:10).

So what is more arrogant? Is it more arrogant to imply that it is God alone who has the proper interpretations which can be revealed to us through His Spirit? Or is it more arrogant to imply that God has no views of His own, and He can therefore be molded into our own image?

I mentioned that true Christianity is a relationship with God. In order for us to have a relationship with Him, He must be a personal being, and therefore have views of His own that He wants us to know. Yet one of the goals of the Emerging Church Movement is to “Reinvent Christianity”. I am pretty sure that a relationship with God is not something that you invent in the first place. But I may have bought into this idea myself somewhere along the way if I did not have that relationship, because it is an idea that has greatly influenced my own generation. The very fact that they would think Christianity is something that can be reinvented (as if it was invented in the first place) is very telling about the fact that they themselves do not have that relationship.

**Jesus Himself** said that *“unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”* (John 3:3). Yet those who teach the same thing today are sometimes regarded as a cult, sometimes by those who truly are cult members. However, true Christianity is simply a call to a personal God, and it is therefore His word which is the final word, not mine or any other human teacher. I am just simply telling you what He has said.