

CAN MEN BECOME GODS?

Two basic issues must be considered in answering this question. First, is the existence of more than one God possible, and second, what was God's purpose for creating man?

A prophet of the Lord has spoken conclusively regarding the existence of only one God and the impossibility of additional beings attaining the status of deity.

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (Isaiah 43:10).

Since it is not possible for more than one God to exist, it is obvious that men cannot become gods. Man's real purpose for life is found repeatedly in the Bible. Men are that they might bring glory to the one true God. Concerning Israel but applicable to the human race, God said, ". . .I have created him for my glory. . ." (Isaiah 43:7). Paul wrote, "Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Living for the glory of God runs counter to man's pride. Man desires glory for himself. Satan has been appealing to this desire from the tragic day he introduced sin into this world by enticing Adam and Eve with the words, ". . .in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods. . ." (Genesis 3:5). Where did Satan get the idea to tempt man with godhood? He originated the concept. In fact, it was his attempt to attain godhood which resulted in his fall from heaven. In great pride he declared, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14). But God said, "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell. . ." (verse 15).

Rather than seek personal exaltation, we are to exalt the one true God. We begin by acknowledging our complete inability to earn God's favor, and then we see our only alternative: salvation by grace through faith in Christ.

"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law: of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:27,28).

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