

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH –July 2024

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PLAYING GOD

Human depravity likes to play God! The original temptation was Satan's lie, "You will be like God" (Gen. 3:5). This has been the allure of fallen humanity ever since. The great issue in life is the godship issue! Who or what will be a person's god? Everything falls or stands on this issue!

Isaiah 45:21–22 (NKJV)

21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is **no other God besides Me**, A just God and a Savior; There is **none besides Me**.

22 "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and **there is no other**.

God emphatically declares that He ALONE is God and that there is no other! And yet IDOLATRY, in one form or another, has consistently defined the world. And depraved humanity, being made in the very image of God, is partial to SELF. Depravity is a very SELF-oriented reality!

In these last days, as we see evil men growing worse and worse, the "god-complex" of society is more and more on display (2 Tim. 3:13). More and more people are convinced that they are their own masters who determine their own reality. In the role of playing god, people now believe they can define their own gender. As "god" they determine their own reality!

Psalms 2:3 (NKJV)

3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

The world in rebellion doesn't want to be regulated by God's law! They eschew God's LORDSHIP! In depraved rebellion, they insist on doing it their OWN way. PRIDE acts independent of God and insists on being autonomous!

Previously the "progressive" emphasis was that people insisted on being allowed to behave in any way they chose to do so. Who is to say what is moral and what is immoral? Community standards now prevail and not God's standards! It's the law of the land! In a qualified way, we can now kill (murder) even the most vulnerable among us, whether it be those in the womb or those old and frail. Marriage is now redefined! Thus, society came to play God related to the most fundamental issues in life.

But as of recently the great issue is no longer merely a moral issue of BEHAVIOR but rather one of IDENTITY. The culture wars concerning moral BEHAVIOR have largely been won (in terms of societal acceptance) by those pushing depraved rebellion. Sexual perversion is now, in many respects, considered normal and legal!

However, now the ante has been upped to a new level of "playing God". Society has moved from issues of behavior to now thinking, "I can be whatever I choose to be," whether it be a man or a woman. Now the craze is the transgender movement. As those playing "God", people believe they can determine what is MORAL and they can also determine their very IDENTITY! They choose their pronouns! They now live by the motto, "I am who I feel I am!"

What we are witnessing is a frontal attack on God and His truth! But God is still God and He is ever in charge of REALITY! Humanity in depraved rebellion professing to be wise becomes abject fools. Depravity changes the glory of God into idolatry in which mankind endeavors to play God. And consequently, God gives steeled rebellion over to a debased mind which can no longer think right (cf. Rom. 1:24, 26, 28). This is the WRATH OF GOD revealed! (Rom. 1:18).

Thot: In depravity, mankind worships at the altar of SELF!

Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald