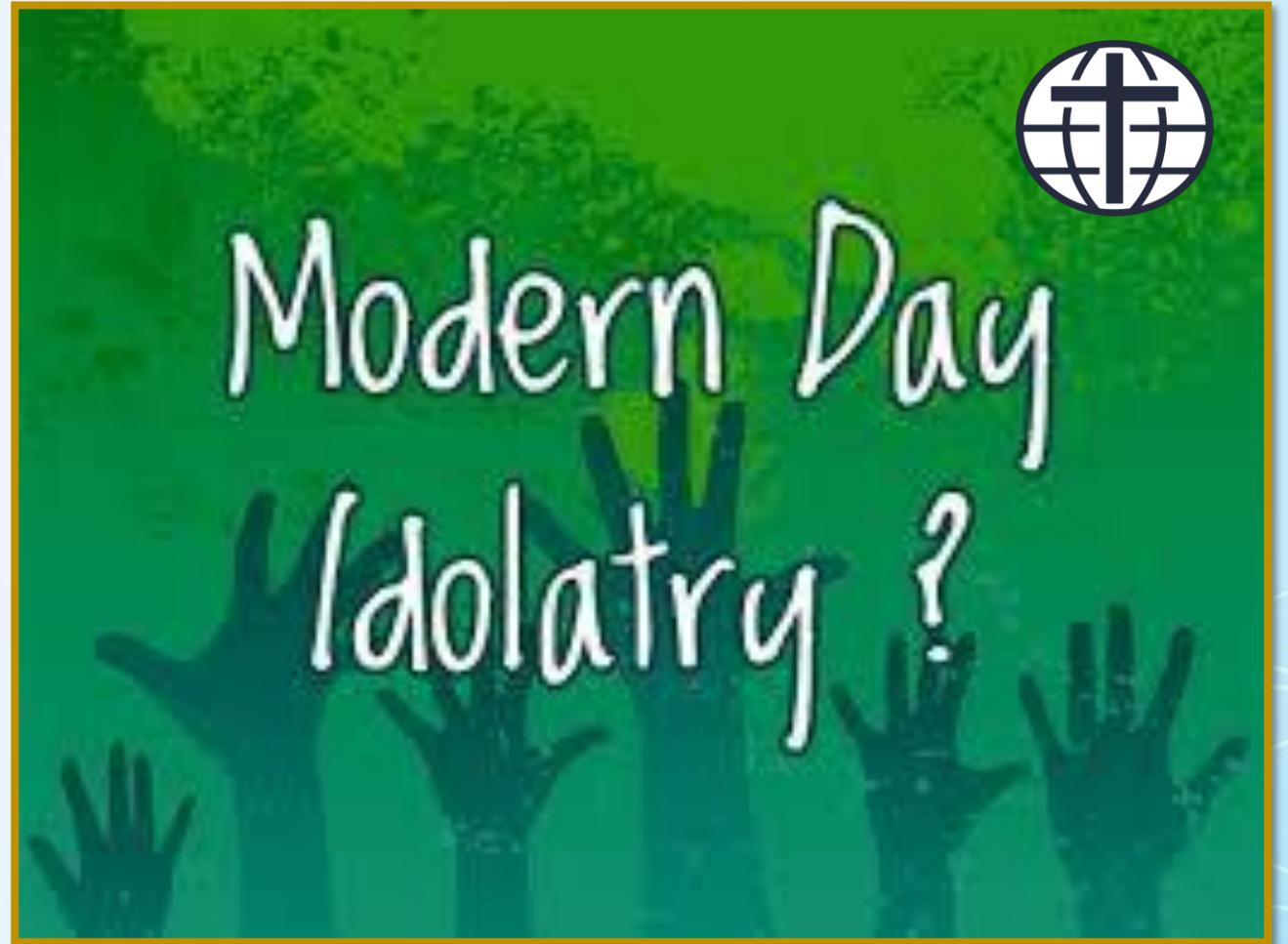
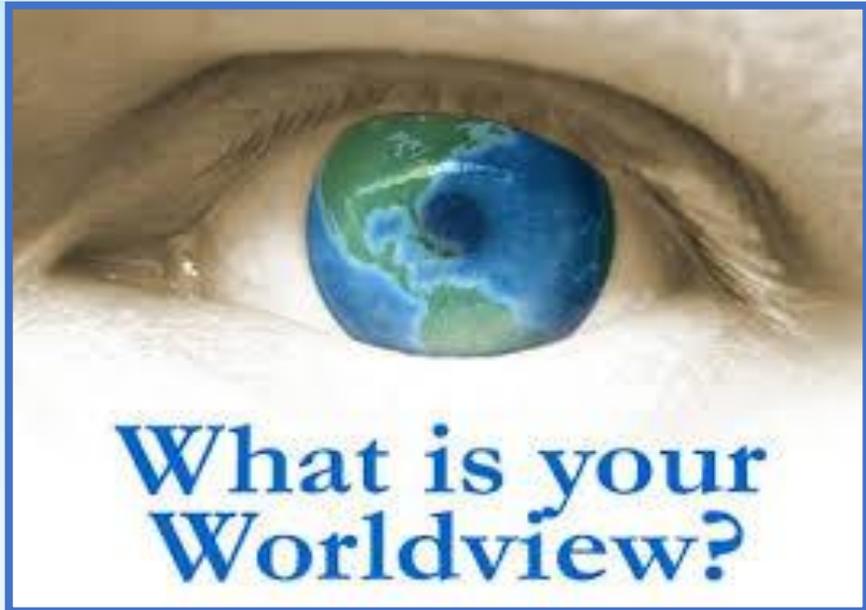
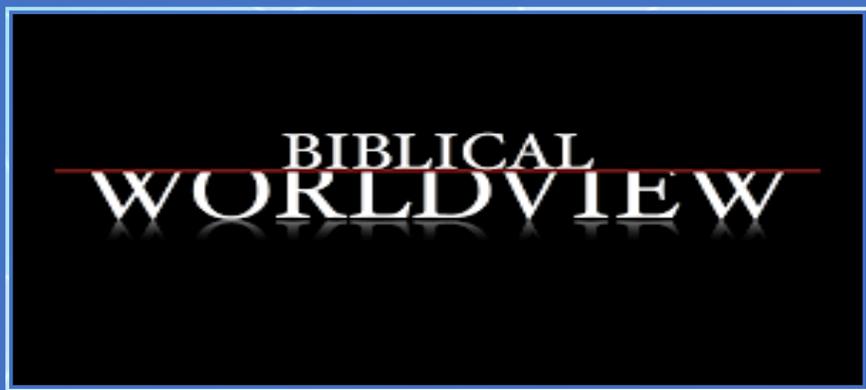


**“WHEN
RELIGION
BECOMES
AN IDOL”**



- The fact that I had got so worked up over an object I considered 'holy' being allegedly profaned that I was willing to violate a fellow human being's very dignity with such impunity should forever remain a compelling reminder to me of how easy it is for us to make an idol of our religious beliefs and practices, so much so that we are sometimes willing to completely dehumanize others, and ourselves too, for their sake. The Mustard Seed, A journal of creative faith.





- What is the  Christian/Biblical worldview of human beings?

Humans – God’s crowning masterpiece!



- **Gen 1:26** Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
- **27** So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- **31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good*.

Little lower than ... Elohim!!



- Psalm 8:3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers — the moon and the stars you set in place—
4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?
5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honour.
6 You gave them charge of everything you made,
putting all things under their authority—
7 the flocks and the herds
and all the wild animals,
8 the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
and everything that swims the ocean currents.

A Special Creation



- **John 14** So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.
- **Eph 2:10** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

A New Commandment



- 1 John 2:7 Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before.
- 9 If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer,^[a] that person is still living in darkness. 10 Anyone who loves a fellow believer^[b] is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

Loving God

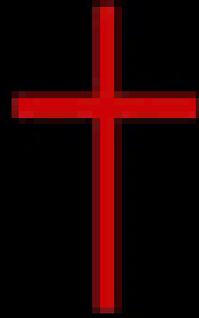


- **1 John 4:20** If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, ^[c] that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.



- Humans more important than
 - Idols
 - Ideologies
 - Doctrines

- How we treat people indicates if we are a healthy church!!



It's not a Religion

It's a **Relationship.**