

# Investigating Christianity 03: "Polytheism"

## Colossians 2:6-10

October 8, 2023

**Main idea:** The pluralism and religious syncretism we see in our culture is actually a reboot of ancient polytheism.

### Modern Culture and Polytheism

The bias against mainstream monotheism (especially Christianity) that is common in our culture today is predicated by the polytheistic religions of the past. It is hard to overlook the impact of ancient "blended philosophies" on our culture. Karma, past lives, a conscious environment, and even "Mother Nature" all have polytheistic origins.

### Definition: "Poly-theism" = many gods

Typically, these gods are distinguished by particular functions and often take on human characteristics. This was particularly true in [ancient Egypt and ancient Greece](#). Today, the politically correct progressive movement has adopted these same ideas regarding philosophies and even religion.

### Contemporary Significance

Arguably, no church culture in the NT resembles the culture of the U.S. like the Colossian culture. In Colossian culture many were fond of mixing and matching the truths of Christ with ideas and practices from the surrounding non-Christian culture. The results were sometimes wild and always destructive. Some fell into extreme forms of legalism. "Agree with us or be canceled." Others took liberties with their "freedom" in Christ and succumbed to gross immorality.

The doctrines of the faith were mingled with **incompatible, untestable mysteries**, and the integrity of the gospel was compromised. As a result, Colossian Christianity was hard to distinguish from other religions of the day. Much like Christianity in the U.S. today. Paul's advice was simple: **Choose Christ and continue to live in Him.**

### Socially Acceptable

It is amazing what people are willing to believe. People will believe almost anything! It is far more socially acceptable to "syncretize" our religious beliefs rather than to hold to one in particular. Anyone seriously committed to anything will take heat from the masses. If you are a follower of Christ, you will most definitely take heat from a culture that believes that truth is relative and personal. No one wants to believe that only one belief system is eternal.

Our current religious climate (fulfillment religion) has come from polytheistic religions that have been around for thousands of years. They are neither testable nor consistent.

### Family Night Big idea – Read Colossians 2:6-10

Your children live in a world that believes Christianity is like every other world religion. Not true. It is not "impolite" to hold strong beliefs and to embrace a faith that is the most consistent and testable in the history of mankind.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What should 'overflow' from followers of Jesus (v.7)? According to v.9, what lives in Christ? Who is head over every other power and authority?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why does man prefer the blending of various doctrines or 'truths' over the truth of Christianity? What are some of the 'fine sounding arguments' that are made against the Bible or Christianity? What is the difference between faith in Jesus Christ and human rules and truths?"

**Prayer** "Father, help us be bold in our faith as we follow Your Son, Jesus. Amen."

#### Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

**Velocity:** Fields of Faith, SHS, Wednesday at 6:30.

**Gravity:** Meet today in the Community Room.

#### Today's Songs

*Great Things*.....Phil Wickham

*Christ is the Center*.....Danny Gokey

*Mighty to Save*.....Crowder

#### Bring Your Phone Sunday

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, we are asking everyone to bring their phones into the service. We will take a few minutes to log in to your GCC account and update everyone's contact information.

#### Boo Bash

Families are invited to a Boo Bash on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30. Costume contest registration begins at 5:30. You must be registered to enter the contest. Check out categories on the flyer in the lobby. Costume Contest begins at 6:00. Trunk or Treat follows the contest. We need people to sign up in the lobby to bring candy or prizes to hand out of their trunks. Then we will open the pancake house and other activities like Rock Climbing Wall and Nerf Wars. Come and join us for an evening of Boo Bashing!

#### Baptism

Next Baptism Sunday is October 29<sup>th</sup>.