

## CouplesInBloom.com – Other Christian Gods

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Exodus 20:3 and Deuteronomy 5:7 say the same thing ⇒ You shall have no other gods before (*facing, against*) Me. The next verses *literally translated* call this *perversity* and a *hate* crime that will haunt the doer's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren!

God describes Himself in these verses to His people as Jealous: *not* the angry kind, but the envious yet provokable kind (the original language shows these important differences, no such English words exist). This is important to know for two reasons: **1) WHY**: God is Jealous because He alone deserves full Lordship, and **2) HOW**: Wanting love returned, God gives sin temporary permission to affect multiple generations in hope that *someone* among them will see the sin it is, repent, and break the curse so everyone returns to Him.

This is a **huge** lesson, first in our relationship with God. "Other gods" can be anything. Craving 'signs and wonders' is wickedness and adultery ⇒ Matthew 16:4 because God is Jealous: *He* deserves to be craved. I have seen many Christians provoke God by getting more excited about His works than about Him. **The outcome is so predictable**: His love for them lets *this* spiritual adultery *halt* His blessings, which they made into "other gods".

The next **huge** lesson is in our relationship with our spouse. "Other gods" in marriage include prioritizing Biblical qualities *over* who our spouse is. A Christian husband whose wife's submission is more important than she is in spiritual adultery with a characteristic! A Christian wife can also be a wicked adulterer by conditionally waiting for some 'sign' from her husband before loving him. Again, **the outcome is so predictable**: spouses prevent God's blessings for them by idolizing those blessings, making them "other gods".

**If you are in such spiritual adultery**: praise God that you finally see it! Repent (turn away from sin and do right instead) to God and then to your spouse. Verbalize in detail realizing your false thinking; express your desire for goodness and your sorrow for wrecking it by treating it like a god instead of leading by example. Forgive and forget the past, and agree on what seeing your spouse correctly will consist of from today forward.

**If your spouse is in spiritual adultery** (obsessed with your performance more than your person): **do what God does**: tell your spouse you desire their love, and want to be loved Biblically: for who you are. You should be jealous for their love, but do not ruin the prospect of having it with anger for not having it yet. Instead, lead by example: talk with them about how you desire them for who *they* are, which is what fosters blessings.

**Humbly admit the evil and infidelity of "other Christian gods"** ⇒ Matthew 16:4 if you have been works-based. Works are good if born of faith. Signs and wonders are good if resulting from relationship ⇒ Acts 14:3. People who look like Christians and have 'signs and wonders' but have no relationship with God **do** go to hell ⇒ Matthew 7:22-23.

**Prevent your marriage from 'going to hell'** by making it relationship-based, just as God modeled for us, the bride of Christ. Do not be thrown and blown away because your marriage has "**other Christian gods**" right now. God knows it and will help you fix it... not by more religiosity of angry do's and don'ts, but rather by your **non-adulterous love** that keeps drawing your beloved, **for who they are**, closer to yourself. ♥ Loren Falzone