

MAKING GOD IN MAN'S IMAGE

Dub McClish
Denton, Texas

In 1978 the Mormon Church decided to accept black men into its priesthood for the first time. This was a direct repudiation of previous Mormon doctrine and practice. By official news releases from church headquarters, the head of the Mormon Church attributed the new policy to a "revelation" from God. Strangely, this "revelation" conveniently coincided with increasing pressures on Mormon officials from within and without the church to drop their long-standing policy of racial discrimination. However, to those acquainted with Mormon doctrine and history this was not too surprising.

The Mormon idea of "continuing revelation" (which various other religious groups also advocate) is about the most basic repudiation of the Bible as the Word of God that a man or a religious organization can make. Reduced to its simplest terms, it elevates the creature above the Creator (**Romans 1:25**). It makes it convenient to say or do anything one wants to do on any religious or moral issue and claim a "revelation" from God for it. The Roman Catholic Church has been doing this for centuries by means of the Pope's *ex cathedra* pronouncements that are accepted by Catholics as the voice of God. By such a policy, men can easily make it appear that God says what men want Him to say or be silent on subjects they find unpleasant.

More than once people have come to me on the pretext of seeking Scriptural counsel and advice, when in reality they were seeking endorsement of an unscriptural and sinful act they were planning to do or were already doing. All such efforts are actually attempts at making God over according to what they want rather than submitting to His perfect will. They usually go ahead and do what they want to do, even when the sinfulness of their proposed behavior is pointed out. This attitude prevails in those who seek out a church in which "never a discouraging word" is heard regarding "social drinking," immodest clothing, dancing, and other such worldly behavior. Upon learning that the elders and the preacher believed and taught the Truth on **Matthew 19:9** and related passages, many couples in adulterous marriages have fled to another congregation (sometimes even to a denomination).

We likewise see this attitude in those who seek a church in which they can feel comfortable, although they are stingy with their money, time, and talents and never give a thought to trying to save a soul. The tragic thing about these matters is that if a person "shops around" a little, he can find a "Church of Christ" or a preacher who has just as little respect for God's unchanging, complete revelation as he has.

We are ever tempted to superimpose on God our own foolish misconceptions and hurtful practices. The majority of men have always wanted a god who will let them do what they like and want to do rather than what they ought to do. The heathen are not the only ones who fashion gods according to their own liking.