

To them, this is the main purpose of every believer. But that was the serpent's main purpose for man, not God's.

And becoming "as gods" is also the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church:

"The Word became flesh to make us 'partakers of the divine nature': For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God. 'For the Son of God became man so that we might become God.' The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."

— **Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 460**

On the other hand, the official teaching of Protestant churches is altogether different. They don't believe in this evil idea of becoming "as gods." We are not called here to exalt ourselves to higher and higher levels of god-like self-importance, but, on the contrary, we are called here to abase ourselves to the dust and worship the One True Living God alone:

Westminster Larger Catechism:

Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him for ever.

The promise God gives to the Christian in this life is not that he can become a "god," a being worthy of worship. God forbid! Rather, the true Christian in this life is united to Christ, and assured that in the next life he will become **like** Christ, but he never becomes a "god" himself:

1 John 3:2

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.*

Protestantism altogether distances itself from any concept of us exalting ourselves to become "as gods." The promise is that we shall be **like** Christ, not **become** a "christ" or a "god" in any way, shape or form.

However, it has to be said that most Protestant churches today would probably be quite happy to accept the early "church fathers" and these other churches as being truly Christian, when they are clearly not. And indeed, many Protestant churches today would try to ape the world in promoting modern humanistic self-esteem, self-worth, self-acceptance philosophies which are at least one step on the way to promoting the concept of our becoming self-centred, autonomous "god-like" beings, even if they don't recognise it as such. So we can't even trust most Protestant churches these days either.

We therefore see that a large bulk of mainstream "Christendom" goes along with such a false, Satanic idea that we can, and ought to, become "as gods." But that's the last thing we should ever want to be. That was the serpent's idea. We should rather want to flee from such an idea, abase the self completely and worship the one True Living God, and Him only:

Matthew 4:10

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

The truth that we are all born with sinful, selfish natures, that we are all called to hate our sin and have a real living relationship with the One True Living God, who takes us to heaven to be with Himself despite our sin, has gone missing from the churches completely. It has been replaced by a Satanic, man-exalting false religion believing that we can, and ought to, become "as gods" at will, some even believing that we are not born with sinful natures at all. This is an altogether different religion from the one Jesus Christ came to give us. We cannot deal with any of these "churches." And it has all developed from too light a view of the depth of human sin, and a man-exalting desire to become little "gods," just as the serpent wants us to be.

Ye Shall be As Gods

When Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden, the serpent tempted them to eat from a certain tree that God had told them not to eat from. The serpent told them of certain advantages that could be gained by eating from it:

Genesis 3:5

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Before they ate of this tree they had no idea what evil was. They could only do good. It would never ever have crossed their mind to do "evil" by sinning against God in any way. God's law would have been written on their hearts, and they would have had no thought or desire of doing anything else.

After they ate of this tree, they then knew what evil was all about. But this didn't mean that they then had a free will to decide for themselves whether to do good or evil. Far from it. It plunged them into a slavery to self. That's why we're now all slaves to sin. We can now only do evil. We cannot do good any more. We cannot please God:

Romans 8:8

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

That's what inevitably happens when we are given a "knowledge of good and evil." We become selfish, self-centred. We're in charge now. We don't want to please God any more, we don't want to be bothered with Him. In other words, we are stuck in a condition where we can do nothing but evil all the time:

Genesis 6:5

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Psalms 58:3

The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

The serpent described this condition as being “as gods,” and indeed God agreed with this description:

Genesis 3:22

*And the LORD God said, Behold, **the man is become as one of us**, to know good and evil....*

So, what does being “as gods” entail?

– We are now in charge of **our** own little empires. We don’t worship God any more, we go our own way in every decision we make.

– We want **our** glory to be displayed, not God’s. We want a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. We want to be somebody in this world.

– We want to be **our own** boss. Make **our own** decisions about everything.

– We want a kingdom to rule over **for ourselves**.

This is the world in which we live today. It’s evil. And it all boils down to every one of us individually wanting to be our own little “god.”

So, it is clear that wanting to be “as gods” is not the way we should be. It’s certainly not the way God wants us to be. It’s the way the serpent wants us to be. God wants us to return to Him in humility, and worship Him only. He is the only true and living God worthy of all worship.

The First Commandment states:

Exodus 20:3

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

We are commanded to repent of our sins and call on the One True God to give us a new heart, a heart to be finished with self and to love Him instead:

Ezekiel 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh

Acts 17:30,31

....God.... now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom

he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Our becoming “as gods,” autonomous “gods” within our own individual bodies, apart from the One True Living God, is wrong. It is evil. It is from the serpent. It is Satanic. Only the One True Living God is worthy to be worshipped. Never, ever any of us. How dare we worship men. How dare we even want to be “as gods.” The Christian’s way is the way of self-abasement, not self-aggrandisement:

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

We are called to get away from wanting to be “as gods,” to flee from such a life and call upon the Redeemer, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to save us from this condition, be finished with self-centredness and glorify the One True Living God instead:

1 Corinthians 1:29

That no flesh should glory in his presence.

But, we have a big shock in store here, because the vast majority of churches throughout history firmly believe that the ultimate goal of the Christian is that we **should** become “as gods.” This is exactly the same temptation the serpent enticed Adam and Eve with. The mainstream churches are all copying him. True religion is exactly the opposite.

Many of the early so-called “church fathers” taught this. It was they who developed this false, Satanic idea. A few examples will suffice:

“For we cast blame upon [God], because we have not been made gods from the beginning, but at first merely men, then at length gods; although God has adopted this course out of His pure benevolence, that no one may impute to Him invidiousness or grudgingness he declares, “I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are sons of the Most High.”

– **Irenaeus** (c. 130-200) *Against Heresies* Book 4, Chapter 38

“The Word of God became man, that thou mayest learn from man how man may become God.”

– **Clement of Alexandria** (c. 150-215) *Exhortation to the Heathen*, Chapter 1

“Men were made like God, free from suffering and death, provided that they kept His commandments, and were deemed deserving of the name of His sons, and yet they, becoming like Adam and Eve, work out death for themselves; let the interpretation of the Psalm be held just as you wish, yet thereby it is demonstrated that all men are deemed worthy of becoming ‘gods,’ and of having power to become sons of the Highest.”

– **Justin Martyr** (c. 100-165) *Dialogue with Trypho*, Chapter 124

“For He was made man that we might be made God.”

– **Athanasius of Alexandria** (c. 296-373) *On the Incarnation*, Section 54

““For He hath given them power to become the sons of God.’ (John 1:12) If we have been made sons of God, we have also been made gods.”

– **Augustine of Hippo** (c. 354-430) *Exposition on the Book of Psalms*, Psalm 50

“He came down into our condition solely in order to lead us to his own divine state.”

– **Cyril of Alexandria**

“becoming a god is the highest goal of all”

– **Basil of Caesarea** *On the Spirit* 9:23

These are all our well-respected, so-called “orthodox,” early Christian leaders, whom we read about in our books on church history. This is dreadful. The true Christian way is to practice self-abasement, not try, or even want, to become “as gods” in any way.

All the various Eastern Orthodox churches go one step further than this. They don’t even believe that men are born with sinful, selfish natures at all. They believe that we are all born neutral, with merely a propensity to sin. Consequently, there is no obstacle to our becoming “as gods” in the end. They call this process “*theosis*.”