

WHEN MAN DESIRES TO BE GOD

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It often becomes hard for man to remember his place in the universe. He can be tempted to think quite highly of himself. This may be due to high education, immense riches, and great power, among other things. Man begins to think that he is indispensable and should be given enormous honor and adoration. This dangerous thought process can raise one's self-estimation far higher than it should be. It can get so out of hand that such a person will begin to see himself as an object of worship, and on a higher level than "regular" people.

This kind of "exalted" thinking can even lead some to think they are "God." Now, before you think that I am exaggerating, remember that the Pharaoh of Egypt was viewed as a "god-king," and the imperial cult of Rome called for the worship of the Roman emperor as a god. These same ideas have been present in other societies in times past (i.e., China, Japan).

When man falls away from the true God, he will be led down a path that puts him in opposition to God, even wanting to take God's place! The apostle Paul warned about this spirit of apostasy calling it "*the man of sin...the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God*" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). Any religious or political leader can assume divine status and demand the adoration of blind followers. We must remember to let God be God and keep our proper place as His creation. Our desire should be to try to please God, not replace Him!
