The God Who Won’t Share

“I will not give My glory to another” (Isaiah 42:8; 48:11).

Syncretism: The fusion of diverse religious beliefs and practices.
**God hates syncretism.**

**1. Israelite Syncretism**

A. Micah’s *calf image* of the Lord

Exodus 32; 1 Kings 12

B. Micah’s *household idols* (*teraphim*)

Genesis 31:19; Ezekiel 21:21;

**2. The Appeal of Syncretism**

A. To the *eclectic* mentality

2 Kings 17:24-33

B. To the *gullible* mentality

Colossians 2:18-23

C. To the *philosophical* mentality

Colossians 2:8

D. To the *sacred space* mentality

John 4:19-24

E. To the *traditional* mentality

Mark 7:1-13

F. To the *political* mentality

Psalm 33:12 (misapplied)

G. To the *Spirit-of-the-age* mentality

Ephesians 2:2

**3. The Cure for Syncretism**

A. Submit to the *word* (Isaiah 8:19-20)

B. Worship the *Lamb* (Revelation 5:13-14)

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. Why cannot God share His glory with another (Isaiah 42:8; 48:11)? What would that do with the whole structure of creation?

3. Scripture insists that the Lord alone is God. There is no one like Him. He is incomparable (Isaiah 40:18, 25). Syncretism is an affront to the uniqueness of the Lord. This is a prominent theme in Isaiah 40-48.

How does Scripture use satire to mock the makers of idols (Isaiah 40:18-20; 44:9-20)?

Children often ask, “Who made God?” How does the Lord answer this question (Isaiah 43:10-13)?

How does the omniscience of God reassure us that there are no other gods (Isaiah 44:8)?

What does God do that His rivals cannot do (Isaiah 45:5-7, 20-25; 46:8-11)?

4. Why is it the height of folly to mix what Scripture says about God with our own religious, philosophical, or political notions? How does God react to that (Exodus 20:3-6)? How do you like to think of God? Are your ideas fully supported by Scripture?

5. In Acts 19:11-20, to what kinds of practices and books were the believers initially clinging? What caused them to give these things up?