

PROTESTANTISM'S 500-YEAR-OLD BITTER ROOT JUDGMENT AND INNER VOW

The Negative Judgment: All use of images constitutes a graven image.

The Inner Vow: Therefore, I will reject all uses of images in my Christian life.

The Result: Many Protestant books on systematic theology do not even include a section on dream, vision, imagination, or any other application of the use of the eyes of one's heart. This is startling considering that the biblical stories and actions which came as a result of dreams and visions form a section of Scripture equal to the entire New Testament!

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IDOLATRY AND SETTING AN IMAGE IN ONE'S MIND

	IDOLATRY	IMAGE
Authorized by:	Man (Ex. 32:1)	God (Ex. 25:9-22; Col. 1:15; Heb. 12:2)
The Goal:	Worship the idol (Ex. 32:8)	Never worship the image; use the image as stepping stone into divine flow (Rev. 4:1)
The Action:	The idol remains dead (Is. 44:19)	Divine flow is prompted (Rev. 4:2)
The Prayer:	Pray to the idol (Is. 44:17)	Never pray to the image; as divine flow is activated, communication with God is established (Rev. 4 - 22)
The Purpose:	To worship the thing (Is. 44:15)	To focus one's heart before God (II Cor. 3:18; 4:18)
The Attitude of the Heart:	Stiff-necked; proud (Ex. 32:9)	Seeking God humbly (Prov. 2:1-5)
The Control Issue:	Manipulating God; magic (I Kings 22:20-23)	Watching God in action; Christianity (Rev. 4 - 22)

WHY IS THE USE OF IMAGINATION, IMAGES, DREAMS AND VISIONS IMPORTANT?

1. God has commanded us to imagine His Word (“meditate”) (Josh. 1:8 & I Chron. 29:18).
2. Divine creativity comes through image (Ex. 25:9-22; 35:35).
3. When God reasons, He uses imagery (Is. 1:18).
4. When Jesus taught, He used imagery (Matt. 13:34).
5. As Jesus lived, He ministered out of vision (Jn. 5:19, 20).
6. God has declared that one of the primary ways He communicates with us is through dream and vision (Num. 12:6; Acts 2:17).
7. God counsels us through our dreams at night (Ps. 16:7).
8. Sight is better than blindness (Jesus healed the blind - Mk. 10:46-52).
9. The Lord’s Supper utilizes imagery (“This is My blood, this is My body - do this in remembrance of Me” - Jn. 6:53, 54; I Cor. 11:23-25).
10. Personal transformation occurs as we look into the spiritual realm (II Cor. 3:18; 4:18).
11. Pictures are powerful and produce heart faith (Gen. 15:1,5,6).
12. The Bible is full of pictures, dreams, visions, metaphors, similes, parables, and images (Genesis through Revelation).
13. Our prayers are to be full of imagery (Ps. 23).
14. Our worship is to be full of imagery (Ps. 36:5,6).