

Peace for the Journey ... June 3, 2010

Scripture Reading: [Isaiah 40:18-31](#)

*"Jesus answered, "The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."
Mark 12:29-30*

Not much has changed since the days of the Old Testament writers. Idolatry is still a problem. Sinful humanity still creates and worships idols in place of the one true God. Of course, today's idols are not necessarily statues carved out of wood. There are not as many golden calves as there used to be. (See [Exodus 32:4](#).) But there are plenty of substitute gods available for our attention and worship.

One of the most common idol is our own image of God. In place of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we often create a personal image of God which may or may not bear any resemblance to the God revealed in Scripture.

Clearly, different people have different experiences of God, and we have differing interpretations of Scripture's meaning, but we must be careful about creating God in our own image, turning God into an imaginary friend who does whatever we want him to.

Fortunately God's grace is greater than our sin. And God has granted us access to at least three gifts to counter-act the attractive power of idols: Scripture, tradition, and community. When we remember that God reveals Himself through Scripture; that the tradition of the church has been passed down to us through generations (our ancestors who have wrestled with the idols too); and that the community of believers is available to help us and hold us accountable; we can be formed in God's image rather than forming God in our image.

Spend some time today prayerfully reflecting on your life and your image of God. Have you created any idols? Do you worship any idols, including your personal image of God? Trust in God's grace and gifts of God for faithful life.