

# Idol Making Factories @ Heart

The Ten Commandments speak clearly about making images of God, and Christians have struggled with art from the outset. The church has had at best an uneasy relationship with artists across the ages.

**Iconoclasm** is the deliberate destruction of religious icons and other symbols or monuments, usually with religious or political motives.

The Iconoclasts in the Reformation smashed statues, paintings, ornate furniture and stained glass windows, all in the cause of liberation.

We are congenital idol makers. We are subject to the force of anthropomorphism—making God in our own image.

Art that represents Jesus as an Anglo and clean effeminate is not portraying the truth. To expose students to the bulk of images of this type is to package Jesus in a specific culture and misrepresent Him

## Chocolate Jesus

### Introduction

**1. What does the study of this topic show us about God Himself?**

Ans: God is pure and holy. God is not mocked.

**2. Which scripture passages illustrate this aspect of God?**

- Galatians 6:7 – God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
- Isaiah 17:7 & 10 – In that day men will look to their Maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel. They will not look to altars, the works of their hands; you have forgotten God your Saviour, you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress.
- Genesis 19 – Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed

**3. How does understanding God in this way change our lives, or make us more like Jesus?**

- Honour God
- Obey the Ten Commandments – Do not take God's name in vain
- Know that God loves us but at the same time judges sin

# Chocolate Jesus



You are looking at a big sculpture of Jesus made out of a very large amount of chocolate. Christians protest against it, and the statue has been taken away. The artist is angry and the gallery boss has stopped working there.



Warga/News

## Activities

1. What is wrong with a Chocolate Jesus? Explain the problem.
2. What should you do when you see or hear a person doing something that is unacceptable concerning Jesus or God?
3. Explain the similarity between the account in Exodus 32 (the Golden Calf), and this art work?
4. What is different between the two?
5. Look up the following passages and explain how God feels about being mocked.

*Galatians 6:7 – God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*

*Isaiah 17:7 & 10 – In that day men will look to their Maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel. They will not look to altars, the works of their hands; you have forgotten God your Saviour, you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress.*

*Genesis 19 – Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed*

6. What is meant by the second part of Galatians 6:7?
7. How do we see God being dishonoured in our community?
8. How is God dishonoured in pagan cultures?
9. Which do you think is worse – dishonouring God in a so-called Christian country, or making idols in a country where the true God is unknown? Give reason for your answer.
10. God is loving and kind, but is also pure and holy. Make a list of words that describe the purity and holiness of God.

We should regard God with .....