

Hope



Love

Peace

Peace

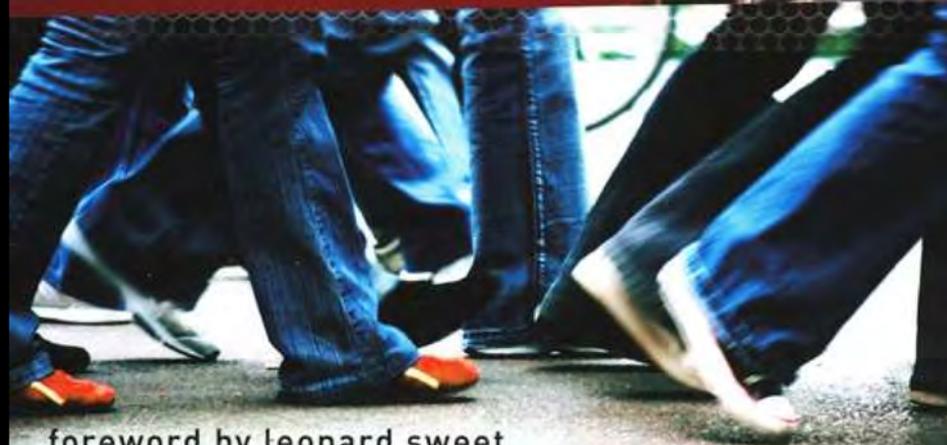


+reactivating the missional church



**THE  
FORGOTTEN  
WAYS**

**ALAN HIRSCH**



foreword by leonard sweet







## Deuteronomy 6

<sup>1</sup>These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land

that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup>so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup>Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.



## Deuteronomy 6

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with

all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.



## Deuteronomy 6

<sup>10</sup> When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,

to give you – a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, <sup>11</sup> houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant – then when you eat and are satisfied, <sup>12</sup> be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.



## Deuteronomy 6

<sup>13</sup> Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.

<sup>14</sup> Do not follow other gods, the gods

of the peoples around you; <sup>15</sup> for the LORD your God, who is

among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. <sup>16</sup> Do not test the

LORD your God as you did at Massah. <sup>17</sup> Be sure to keep the

commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and

decrees he has given you. <sup>18</sup> Do what is right and good in the

LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in

and take over the good land that the LORD promised on oath to

your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> thrusting out all your enemies before you, as

the LORD said.



## Deuteronomy 6

<sup>20</sup> In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the

LORD our God has commanded you?” <sup>21</sup> tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. <sup>22</sup> Before our eyes the LORD sent miraculous signs and wonders – great and terrible – upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. <sup>23</sup> But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that he promised on oath to our forefathers. <sup>24</sup> The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. <sup>25</sup> And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”











## **Deuteronomy 6:4**

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

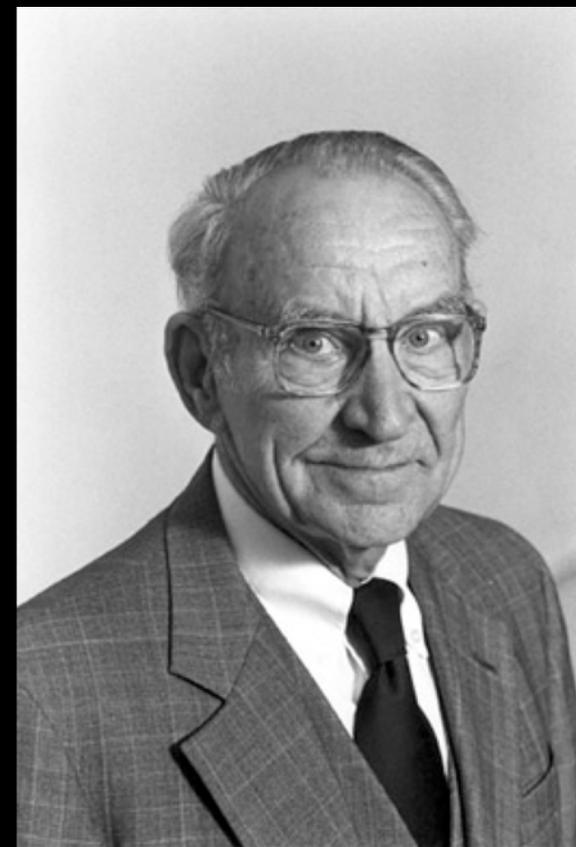
<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

So in the Hebraic perspective, monotheism is not so much a statement about God as eternal being in essential oneness, as it was for the Hellenist theologians, but rather an existential claim that there is only one God and He is Lord of every aspect of life. Again, here the concrete and practical nature of Hebraic thinking comes to the fore. Polytheists can compartmentalize life and distribute it among many powers. . . Monotheists (authentic biblical believers) have only one reference point for life and existence – namely God. The *shema* is in the first and original instance of this complete and systemic claim on our lives. It is thus a call to covenant loyalty, rather than being a statement of theological ontology (nature of being.) The implications are far reaching, not just for theology, but for worldview – for orienting the believer towards life itself. This must influence how we conceive of life and faith itself.

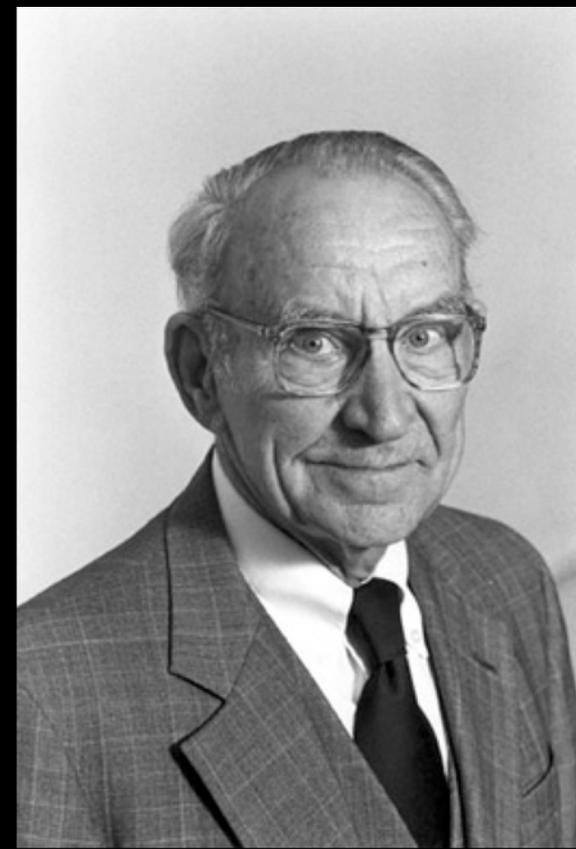


~Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways*, page 89

“The sole sovereignty of God is realized only by stern struggle with other gods, with all the forces that oppose his will. This is to say that, to the biblical writers themselves, monotheism begins, not as a stage of metaphysical speculation, not as a final step in the development out of polytheism, not as a merging of all gods into one (as in Hinduism), but when one God becomes the decisive reality for a particular man and thereby calls for the dethronement of all his other gods. This helps explain why early Christians found in the total obedience of Jesus a supreme and final manifestation of God...It points to the reason why in dying with him to the world, they themselves experienced true knowledge of God and true power from God. And the message of the oneness of God intensified their struggle against false gods. To them, the conflict with heathen gods had entered its final stage.



Christian belief does not consist in merely saying “There is One God.” The devil knows that. Christians respond to the God by faith in his deeds, trust in his power, hope in his promise, and passionate abandonment of self to do his will. Only within the context of such a passionate vocation does the knowledge of the one Lord live. And this knowledge necessitates rather than eliminates the struggle with the devil and all his works. Only in unconditional obedience, spurred by infinite passion, infinite resignation, infinite enthusiasm is such “monotheism” wholly manifested in human existence, as for example, in Jesus.



~Paul S. Minear, *Eyes of Faith*, page 115.





## Philippians 2:9-11

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



## Romans 10:8-10

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.



## Ephesians 1:18-22

<sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,



## Ephesians 1:18-22

<sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

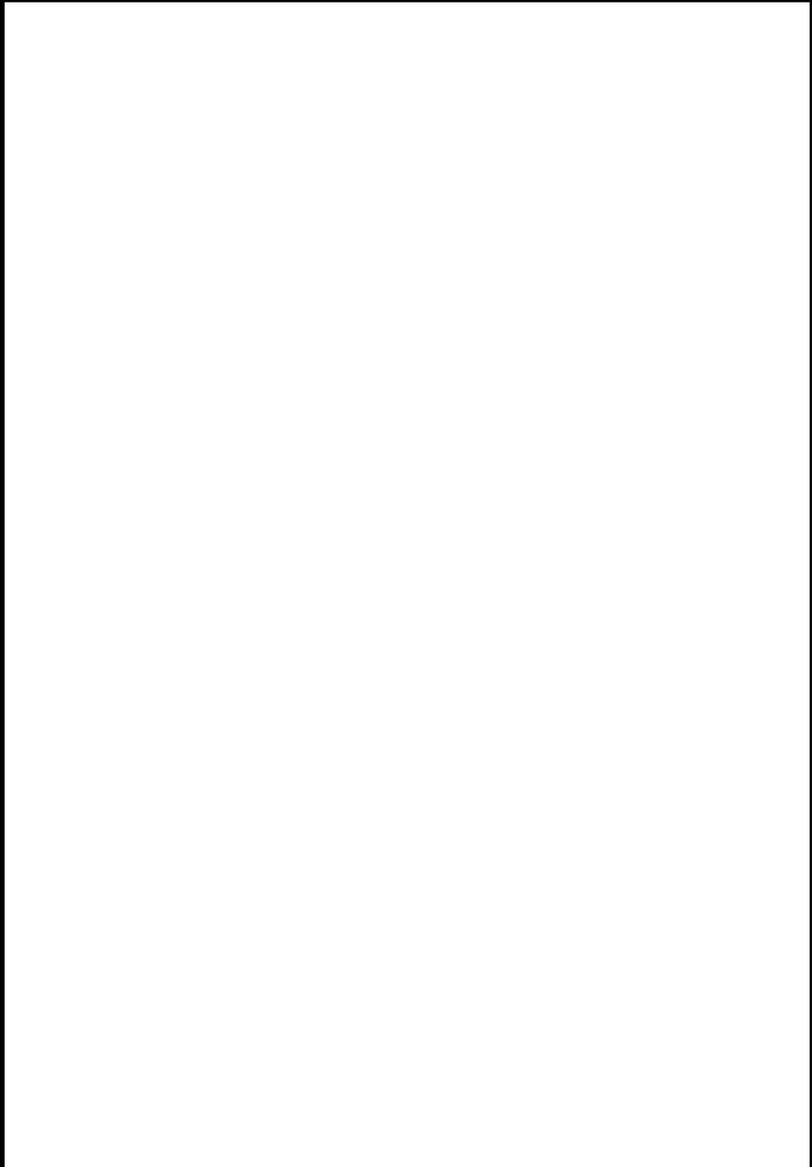


Jesus  
Is  
Lord!

When the early church claims “Jesus is Lord,” it does so in precisely the same way, and with the same implications, that Israel claimed God as Lord in the *Shema*. In fact, the fundamental religious situation hadn’t shifted all that much.... Polytheism was still the dominant religious force in their day, as it is in ours. The names of the gods had changed from those of Canaanite ones (Baal, Ashteroth, etc.) to Greco-Roman ones (Venus, Diana, Apollos, etc.) and from there to romantic love, consumerism, and self-help religion in our day, but in essence the confession has the same claim and impact.

~Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways*, page 90-91





“Once a year everyone in the Empire had to appear before magistrates to burn a pinch of incense to the godhead of Caesar and to say: 'Caesar is Lord.' After he had done that, a man might go away and worship any god or goddess he liked, so long as that worship did not infringe decency and good order; but he must go through this ceremony in which he acknowledged the Emperor's divinity.”

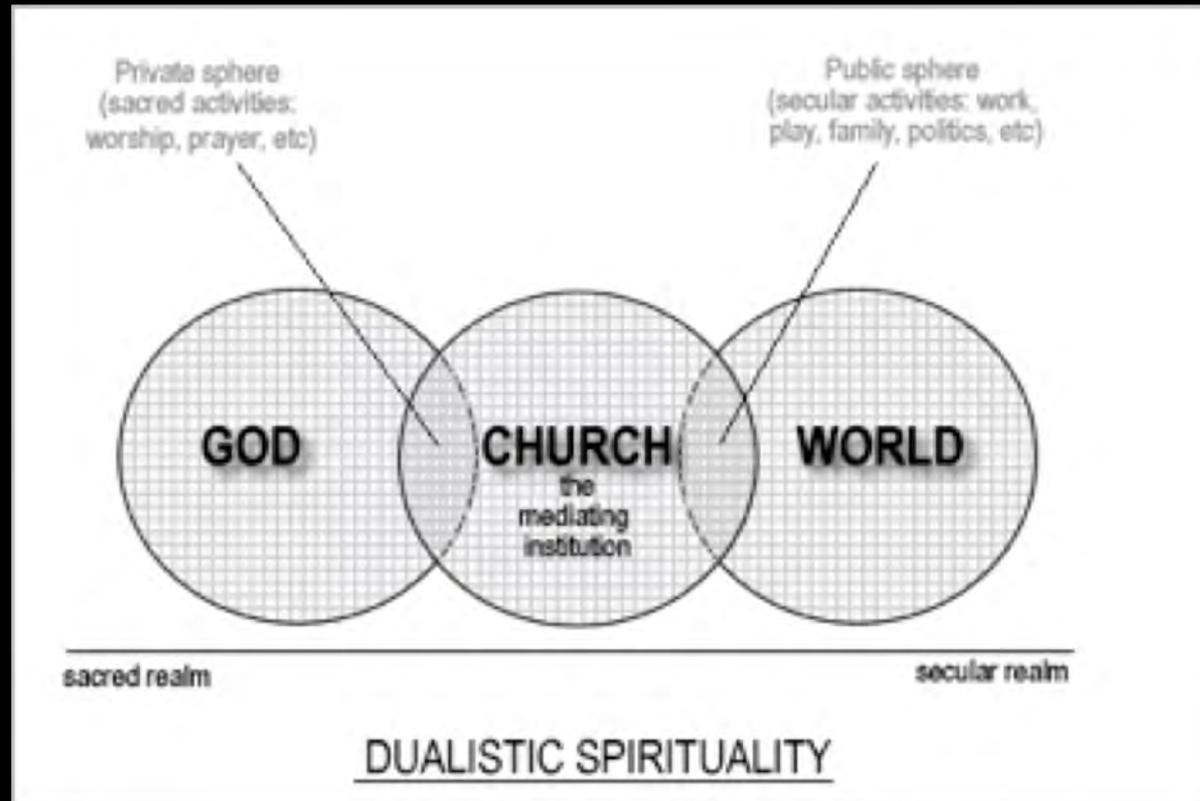
~ William Barclay, *Commentary on Revelation*, page 18

“The early church refused [the] claim of the overlordship of Caesar; they refused to see Jesus as a mere part of the pantheon of the gods in Rome. In fact, the confession ‘Jesus is Lord’ became in their mouths and in this context a deeply subversive claim that effectively undermined the rule of Caesar. The Christians wanted to bring all of life under the lordship of Jesus, and that meant subverting the lordship of Caesar. The emperors understood this all too clearly; hence, the terrible persecutions that followed. But the point is that our spiritual forebears really understood the inner meaning of monotheism here. They knew that Jesus was Lord and that this lordship effectively excluded all other claims to ultimate loyalty. They knew that this was the heart of the faith, and they could not, would not, surrender it.”

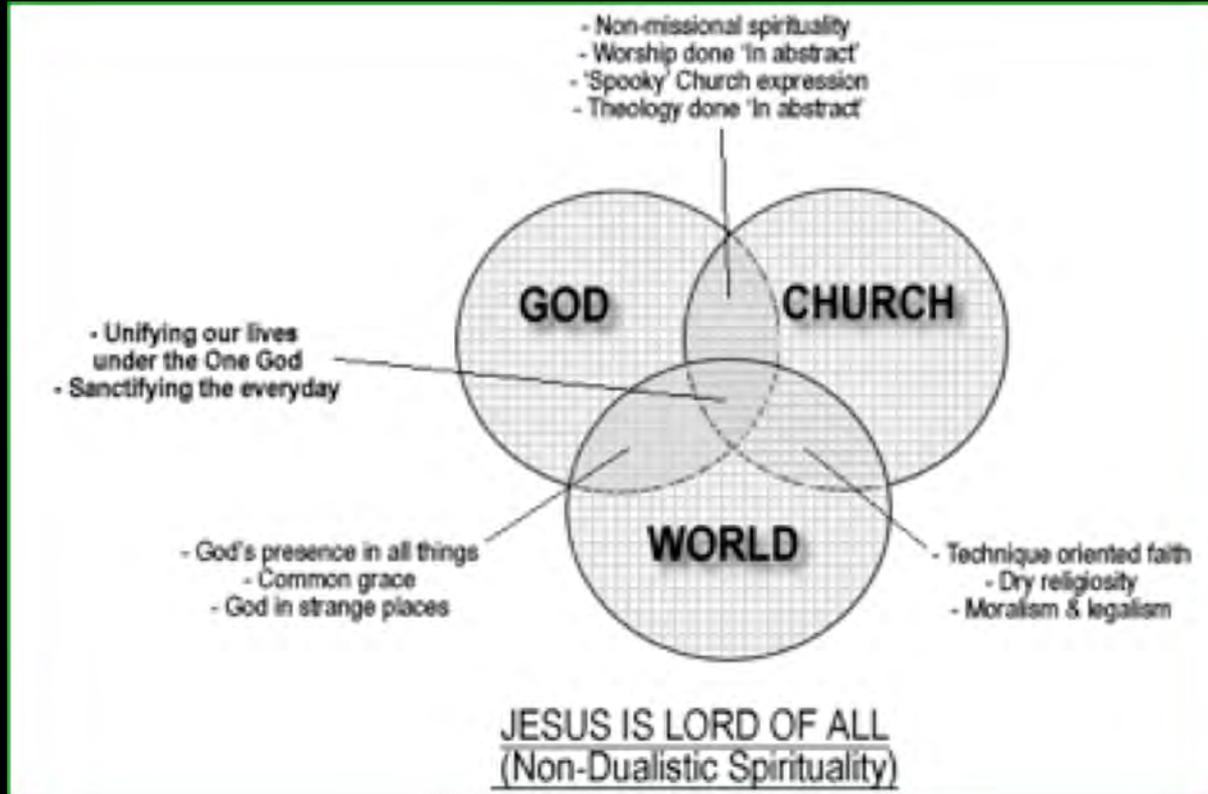


~Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways*, page 92

# Dualistic Spirituality



# Jesus is Lord of All Spirituality



“The ‘jealousy’ of God must be understood in this light (Ex.20:5, 34:12, Dt.4:24, etc.) It is a refusal in God to share his exclusive claim to rule over the lives of his people. It is not a negative emotional response in God; it is simply the outworking of his claim of over against the claim of the idols. God will not simply share us with false gods. But it is because idolatry will damage and fracture us not simply because God ‘feels jealous.’”



~Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways*, page 90

# *The Christ Candle implications*

1. Identify what are the “gods” that are keeping you from living a life of consistently keeping Jesus as Lord. How would “The LORD is one” make a difference in your life?
2. In what areas of your life are you sinking into a dualistic lifestyle: work, school, parenting, sex, entertainment, friendships, money...
3. Who is your Caesar? What one thing is demanding your allegiance besides Jesus?

