



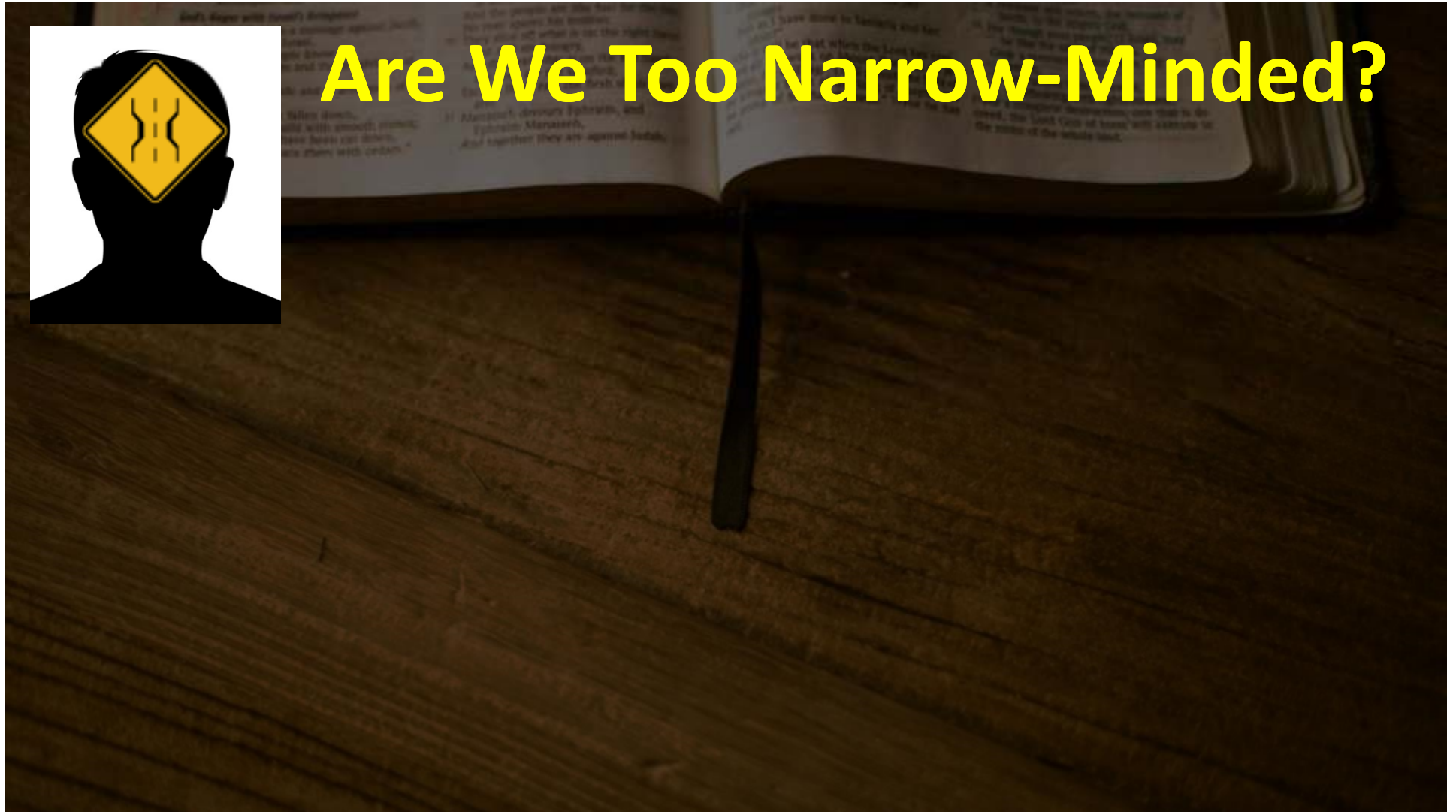
Are We Too
Narrow-
Minded?



narrow-minded

To be unreceptive to new ideas; to have a closed mind.

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It Depends on Our Goal.



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- ❖ **John 8:31-32** - the truth he has revealed and fulfilled can set his disciples free



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- ❖ **John 17:20-21** - the prayer of Jesus is that all who believe through the apostles would be one



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- ❖ **Galatians 1:6-9** - we are strongly warned about those who would distort the gospel of Christ



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- ❖ **Jude 3** - we are charged with contending for the faith that was once for all delivered
- ❖ **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - God-breathed Scripture equips us for every good work



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1 Kings 11:37-38

³⁷ “And I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires, and you shall be king over Israel.



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³⁸ “And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.”



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1 Kings 12:16, 20

¹⁶ And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So Israel went to their tents.



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Is our goal to design and construct a religious project of our own will? If so, consider Jeroboam:

1 Kings 12:16, 20

²⁰ And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.



Jeroboam designs and constructs a religious project of his own will



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❖ **The source was his own heart**



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1 Kings 12:31-33

³¹ He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. ³² And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar.



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1 Kings 12:31-33

³² So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made.



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1 Kings 12:31-33

³³ He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.



Jeroboam designs and constructs a religious project of his own will

❖ **The motive was self-centered**



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1 Kings 12:26-27

²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David.



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1 Kings 12:26-27

²⁷ “If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”



Jeroboam designs and constructs a religious project of his own will

❖ **The appeal was to human sensibilities**



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1 Kings 12:28-29

²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” ²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.



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❖ **The consequences were devastating**



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1 Kings 12:30

³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.



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1 Kings 11:38

³⁸ “And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.”



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1 Kings 13:33-34

³³ After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people. Any who would, he ordained to be priests of the high places. ³⁴ And this thing became sin to the house of Jeroboam, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth.



Jeroboam designs and constructs a religious project of his own will

❖ The consequences were devastating

2 Kings 17:21-23

²¹ And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD and made them commit great sin. ²² The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, ²³ until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.



Question:

Was the man of God who confronted Jeroboam too narrow-minded?



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1 Kings 13:1-5

¹ And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the word of the LORD to Bethel. Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make offerings.



Question:

Was the man of God who confronted Jeroboam too narrow-minded?

1 Kings 13:1-5

² And the man cried against the altar by the word of the LORD and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name, and he shall sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who make offerings on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.'"



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1 Kings 13:1-5

³ And he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: ‘Behold, the altar shall be torn down, and the ashes that are on it shall be poured out.’”



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1 Kings 13:1-5

⁴ And when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Seize him." And his hand, which he stretched out against him, dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself.



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Was the man of God who confronted Jeroboam too narrow-minded?

1 Kings 13:1-5

⁵The altar also was torn down, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.



Different feast
Different priesthood
Different temples
Golden calves





The Aim of God's People:

To build according to the pattern
and restore what has been lost



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1 Kings 13:2

² “Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name...”



The Aim of God's People:

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2 Kings 22:1-2, 13

¹ Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem... ² And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.



The Aim of God's People:

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2 Kings 22:1-2, 13

¹³ “Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”



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Our Great PRIVILEGE and RESPONSIBILITY:

To align our minds with “the mind of Christ”



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1 Corinthians 2:16

¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.



Our Great PRIVILEGE and RESPONSIBILITY:

To align our minds with “the mind of Christ”

Galatians 1:10

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.



Our Great PRIVILEGE and RESPONSIBILITY:

To align our minds with “the mind of Christ”

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”



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