

Series "Ten Commandments"
"The Invisible God"
Exodus 20:4-6
Part-3

Commandment #1 tells us – Who must be worshipped! (Only one true and living God!) That is Jehovah; we know Him today by Jesus!

Commandment #2 tells us – How He must be worshipped! (There is a prescribed way that God is to be worshipped!)

Thought Of The Passage: "The Making Of An Idol Or Likeness Of God Is Wrong Because It Promotes Imagination Above Revelation."

- 1. Don't Make Idols**
- 2. The Danger Of Idols**
- 3. We Don't Need Idols**

1. Don't Make Idols:

Commandment #2 (Person) Exodus 20:4

4 – Reasons Why We Are Commanded Not To Make Idols:

- 1. Don't Make Idols Because The Maker Of Creation Is Greater Than The Creation:** Romans 1:25.

"any likeness of what is in heaven above (Spiritual forces) or on the earth beneath (material things) or in the water under the earth (Esoteric monster)."

Exodus 20:5

- 2. Don't Make Or Worship Idols Because God Alone Is The True God, Don't Give Worth To A Cheap Substitute:** "shall not worship them or serve them;"

Psalm 115:1-8

Exodus 20:5

3. Don't Make Idols Because You Will Tempt Or Challenge The Lord:

"for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God" – This is not negative but in a holy sense. God want's us zealous for Him (Fully Devoted To Him!). (Loving zeal) God maintains His glory; God has a love for you and does not want us empty.

4. The Making Of Idols Is The Fruit Of Forgetting God's Grace: Exodus 20:6 – "but showing lovingkindness to thousands," – Thousands of generations.

What Is Forbidden? "The making of figures or objects, whether physical or of human devise; Representative of God and or as objects or aids to worship."

This Commandment forbids the use of such objects, pictures and statues of Christ in private and public worship; Orthodox Church.

This commandment was so important that God says it two times in this chapter, Exodus 20:22-23.

It was then in Exodus 21-23 the giving of social and civil laws to Israel; then followed by the day of confirming the Law in Exodus 24.

The altar, the law, and the people dripped with blood.

Moses then ascended into the mount to be with God for 40 days. There, God gave him the law written on stone, Exodus 24-31:18.

Exodus 32:1-5

Paul quotes this passage: 1 Corinthians 10:7.

It is not abandoning the true God but worshipping Him through false means!

1 John 5:21 – "Little children, guard yourselves from idols."

2. The Danger Of Idols:

The 4 Dangers of Idols:

- 1. An Idol Obscures God:** They are made to reveal God; they wind up hiding the real God.

The crucifix with Jesus on the cross.

It is focusing on Jesus' human weakness without conveying His divine strength. It depicts the reality of His pain and suffering, but fails to remind us of His victory and joy. It shows us a dying Jesus but not a resurrected Jesus.

Pictures of Jesus Christ –

The bottom-line is, "An image can't convey everything!" So God says, "Don't try!"

- 2. An Idol Turns A Means Into An End:** We use things to help us understand the invisible. We use tangible objects and things to help us reach the end. We start worshipping them.

The Denominations – I am a Methodist, Baptist, Nazarene, I can be just as good a Christian in either camp. (These are just aids to worship)

Numbers 21:9 – Serpent on a pole, later 2 Kings 18:4, worshipped it.

- 3. An Idol Promotes Imagination Above Revelation:** We try and make God like us, instead of us wanting to be like Him.

We have been made in God's image but instead of us wanting to be in conformity to that image, we try and make God into our own image, Genesis 1:27.

- 4. An Idol Subtracts From God:**

Joy Davidman (Wife of C.S. Lewis) said, "The real horror of idols is not merely that they give us nothing, but that they take away from us even that which we have. Idols take away the revelation we have of God through nature, conscience, and scripture. Taking the knowledge of God from the soul."

We Have Mental Idolatry!

- 1. The God that is tightfisted** – Many Christians live with the view that God is up there watching their every move (That's true!) Psalms 103:8.

John 3:17

- 2. The god that is military general** – barking out orders with ultimatums. This God fits in real well with their aggressive, competitive personalities.

Romans 8:15-16

- 3. The god that resembles George Burns** – Isaiah 6:5.

3. We Don't Need Idols:

John 4:24

Where can we catch a glimpse of the divine character?

The Bible – God has revealed Himself in His Word. This is why we need to devote ourselves to sound teaching, and personal study.

John 14:8-9

Proverbs 5:21

Jesus was loved by children, He was invited to dinner parties; Jesus was not one that people feared but was one that people longed to be around. This is God as He truly is, John 8:11.

Jesus gives us courage to do the right things by His sacrifice that He made by way of the cross, Luke 9:51.

Application:

1. What This Commandment Forbids – “The making of figures or objects, whether physical or of human devise; Representative of God and or as objects or aids to worship.”
2. “It is an eternal disaster to worship the wrong God; it is equally disastrous to worship the right God the wrong way!”
3. “The Making Of An Idol Or Likeness Of God Is Wrong Because It Promotes Imagination Above Revelation.”