

The Ten Words

Understanding & Obeying the Ten Commandments

No Graven Images Exodus 20:4-6



¹And God spoke all these words, saying,



²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.



³"You shall have no other gods before me.



⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.



5You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,



⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.



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What Is the Second Commandment About?



This second commandment is God telling us to not make images to represent God in any form. We are not to worship images of any kind.



Kevin DeYoung

"The second commandment does not intend to outlaw art or painting or aesthetic considerations. The tabernacle displayed angels and palm trees, the ark will have cherubim, and God himself gave the Spirit to Bezalel and Oholiab that they might be skilled artists and craftsmen.



Kevin DeYoung

God is not against beauty. What he prohibits is. infusing any object with spiritual efficacy, as if man-made artifacts can bring us closer to God, represent God, or establish communion with God."



In the second commandment, God is saying, "Worship Me This Way".



What is the Reason for the Second Commandment?



1: God is Spirit and to Create Images of Him Takes Away from His True Nature



1 Timothy 1:17 (ESV)

¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.



¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.



²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."



²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.



²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.



²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.



²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."



²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."



²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."



Colossians 1:15 (ESV)

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.



Hebrews 1:3a (ESV)

³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power...



Anthropomorphisms

He "sets [his] face" against evil (Leviticus 20:6) The Lord will make "His face" to shine on you"

(Numbers 6:25)

He "stretched out his hand" (Exodus 7:5; Isaiah 23:11)



Anthropomorphisms

God scattered enemies with His strong arm (Psalm 89:10) He "stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth" (Psalm 113:6)

He "keeps his eye" on the land (Deuteronomy 11:12)



Anthropomorphisms

The "eyes of the Lord" are on the righteous (Psalm 34:15)

The earth is His "footstool" (Isaiah 66:1)



2: God is a Jealous God



Exodus 20:5a (ESV)

⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, ...



Matthew Barrett

In Scripture, divine jealousy reflects God's love, but it is an intolerant love, a love that will not permit his glory to be muddied by his people's idolatry.



Matthew Barrett

At its root, idolatry not only inverts the image of God, but robs God of the glory that is his alone. That is why Israel's journey begins at Sinai with this command: "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image. . . . You shall not bow down to them or serve them." But why? "For I the Lord your God am a jealous God"



3: Our Incorrect Worship of God Can Negatively Impact Future Generations

5You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,



⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.



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