



Children are amazing! They experience life in ways that often make us smile. One night there was a terrible, loud, and massive thunderstorm. There were bright flashes of lightening. A father ran upstairs to check on his 4 year old daughter. He found her standing on the window sill spread eagle on the glass. “What in the world are you doing?” he asked. She replied, “I think God is trying to take my picture.” As cute as they can be, children can also be very self-centered. Each of us can live very self-centered lives. However, the focus in our lives should not be on self, but on the only One worthy of all attention, adoration, and affection. God! In the very first command, ***God declares His uniqueness and demands that you not allow anything to challenge or rival your relationship with Him!***

Exodus 22:20 (NASB95) He who sacrifices to any god, other than to the Lord alone, shall be utterly destroyed.

Deuteronomy 6:13–15 (NASB95) ¹³ You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. ¹⁴ You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, ¹⁵ for the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

I. GOD IS UNIQUE IN HIS CHARACTER AND HIS PERSON

During this time, polytheism was rampant and people worshipped many different gods, yet in this command God passes over these in silence to the point of true significance to insist that Israel was not to worship any other god. This explicitly says to us that God is unique. There is no other god but the God of Israel. This teaches monotheism. Implicitly this says that we are to worship the one true God.

A. Unique – (Commands belief in God)

There is an oughtness to this command. An oughtness to worship God as the One who revealed Himself to Moses as “I Am.” (Deuteronomy 6:4) God is unique, there is nothing or no one which can compare to Him in His character or person. In this commandment God tells us Who we are to worship. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

B. Exclusive – (Commands belief in only one God)

Psalm 14:1; Psalm 53:1, Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:18-20, Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:18-22; Jeremiah 2:11; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6; Galatians 4:8-9

II. GOD'S UNIQUENESS DEMANDS A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU

Since God is the only one true God, He rightfully deserves worship. Therefore His uniqueness determines the relationship which is to exist between Himself and man. "Before Me" literally means "to My face". This same word is used in the situation in which a man breaks his original marriage bond to unite with another woman. When man disregards God's uniqueness and places anything or person in rivalry with God, it is as if he breaks the rightful marriage bond to be joined to another. Just as God is unique in character and person, He is also unique in the way He establishes His relationship to man. For man to reject God's preeminence in his life is to reject God's demand for a unique relationship - one which is unrivaled or challenged by any person or thing.

These two words "before Me" are an essential part of the commandment and refer to both priority and presence. God is saying, "Get rid of all other gods, get rid of anything competing for My supremacy in your heart. Remove them from My presence. Get them out of My face. Get them out My sight."

A. Recognition – He must be first

Colossians 1:18 (NASB95) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

B. Affection – fondness, liking, caring

"Love all things for Jesus' sake, but love Jesus for Himself." (Thomas A. Kempis, "The Imitation of Christ")

C. Devotion – love, loyalty, enthusiasm for

Matthew 22:37–38 (NASB95) ³⁷ And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment."

Deuteronomy 6:5 (NASB95) You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

CONCLUSION

The "you" here is "you singular." In other words, this command applies to each individual. It is spoken to each person as if by name. Each one of us is personally accountable to God. So when God says "you shall have," He is saying you, you personally shall not "own, possess, seek, desire, love or worship" any other god. (A.W. Pink; The Ten Commandments, p. 17)

A. You must guide your family to worship God

B. You must guard your family

“It is impossible for man to live without having an object of worship as it is for a bird to fly if it is taken out of the air.” (G. Campbell Morgan)

Philippians 3:18–19 (NASB95) ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.