

Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption: The Law

The Heights Church March 5, 2017

## The Law – The Ten Commandments # 2

**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. You 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, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.**  
(Exodus 20:4-6)

- **The 1<sup>st</sup> commandment is about inward worship while the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment is about outward worship.**
- **A carved image is literally something hewn from wood or stone.**
- **Jealousy is part of the vocabulary of love. God demands Israel's exclusive love and allegiance often analogous to marriage.**
- **When jealousy is used of God it describes his passion for his holy name that demands our exclusive devotion.**

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- Pagan idols or household gods may be in view.
- We are forbidden to worship any image, even an image of God, because God has given us his true image in Jesus. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)
- Romans Catholics break this commandment regularly and simply include it in the First Commandment.
- Luther's Larger Catechism does not even mention it!
- Three or four generations are the most generations to be found in a household.
- So if you love your children beware, of the severity of God's judgment.
- On the other hand God's steadfast love (*hesed* in Hebrew) is the strongest possible description of his devotion to his people in the OT.

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- **The logic behind the Second Commandment is that God is spirit and cannot be correctly represented by anything physical.**
- **If God were physical he could not be omnipresent in his full entirety at every point in the universe.**

"Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw **no form** on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. (Deuteronomy 4:15 – 19)