

# “Idolatry: The Wave of the Present”

## Exodus 20:4-6

This is the second of the ten commandments. It speaks directly to man’s relationship to God. “You shall not make for yourself an idol...” *Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary* defines idol as “something we ourselves make into a god...anything that stands between us and God or something we substitute for god.” Literally, the word is PESEL, “carved wood or stone” and later “molten metal” (i.e. houses, buildings, cars, trucks, etc.?).

An idol is “anything or being that becomes an object of our affection, allegiance or worship in preference to God.” -worshipping the “created” vs. the “Creator Himself.” Look closely at these verses:

- I. The CHARACTERISTICS of Idolatry (v.4)
  - A. It is OFTEN FASHIONED BY MAN (v.4b) Leviticus 19:4
  - B. It is USUALLY FASHIONED AFTER CREATION (v.4c) Deuteronomy 4:16
  - C. It is ALWAYS CONDEMNED BY GOD (v.4a) Exodus 23:24
  
- II. The CAUSES for idolatry (v.5)
  - A. A MISCONCEPTION OF THE PERSON OF GOD (v.5b) Isaiah 40:13-14
  - B. A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE PLACE OF GOD (v.5c) Joshua 24:19
  - C. A MISTAKEN IDEA ABOUT THE POWER OF GOD (context: Exodus) Psalms 77:15
  
- III. The CONSEQUENCES OF IDOLATRY (v.5) (results in a curse from God)
  - A. A PERSONAL CURSE from God (v.5a) Deuteronomy 27:15
  - B. A POSTERITY CURSE from God (v.5b) Exodus 34:7
  
- IV. The CURE for idolatry (v.6)
  - A. LOVE GOD with all your heart (v.6a)
  - B. OBEY GOD in all your ways (v.6b)

“NO IDOLS” means “nothing or no one standing between you and God.” Nothing or no one else is an object of your allegiance or worship. Who do you worship...REALLY?