

The First Commandment – No Other Gods

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 20:1-3

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Exodus 20:3 - You shall have no other gods before Me.

Background

- Israel delivered from polytheistic Egypt, they brought many gods, Ezek 20:8
- Since Creation man sought other than God: Adam; Cain; Israel...
- What gives God the right to make this demand? Look at who God was and what God had done v2
- If God is the only God, why does He speak of other 'gods'?
 - Only One God according to God's Word – Isa 45:21; 1 Cor 8:4
 - 'gods' are a sinful creation of man and rebellion against the True God

The First Commandment

- not just God 1st, but none 'before Me' - forbids worship of any but God alone
- forbidden to treat anything else as a 'god'. Jos 24:14-15; Mt 6:24
- A command of love: Exclusive covenant love - think marriage

A Biblical Warning - Solomon

- Great king of ancient world - silver was considered common 1 Kg 10:21
- Wise choice early: 1 Kg 3:5,9,13-14 revealed heart, God was pleased
- Warned by God: 1 Kg 9:1-7. How could such a wise man be so foolish?
- Wealth & comfort: 7 yrs building Temple; 13 yrs palace 1 Kg 6:38-7:1
- Power: violation of Dt 17:16 had horse army: 1 Kg 10:26
- Indulgence/sex/wives: Dt 17:17; 1 Kg 11:1-3 turned his heart away...
- Slow violation of First Commandment
- Ecclesiastes - records Solomon's dismay over life by following other gods
- 2:1 - I denied myself nothing... 2:17 - nothing satisfied, I hated life
- Summary & Lesson: Ec 12:13-14 Honor God & obey His commands!

Our Great Gospel is the Antidote

- Solomon probably didn't set out to pursue other gods... slow slide
- You are a sinner – never can earn God's merit by what you do
- Remember who God is: He is Great, Glorious, Good, and Gracious! Eph 1:3-4
- God graciously saves His people by sending His Son, Jesus Christ to redeem us
- After God saves us, He wants us to glorify Him by walking in faith in His Law
- We often forget who God is and begin to believe lies that lead us astray

Four Important G Truths

1. God is Great so I don't have to be in control

- Saying God is sovereign is not enough, you must act on that truth
- Worry & anxiety show we don't believe God is in control or He needs our help
- our little g god = God is not great, I must control things
- Believe God is Great (Large & in Charge) - rest & repent of having to control people, circumstances or the future!

2. God is Glorious so I don't have to fear others

- We often sin because we crave the approval/acceptance of others
- Bible calls this "Fear of Man" Pr 29:25
- God is Glorious (more weighty than anything)
- our little g god = God is not most glorious, something else is
- Believe your Glorious God loved you & laid down His life for you
Rm 5:8; 8:31; 1 Jn 3:16

3. God is Good so I don't have look elsewhere for satisfaction

- God created us needy: hunger, thirst, exhaustion, love, acceptance, etc.
- When we look to other than God, we are frustrated & bitter because people and things will always disappoint eventually.
- our little g god = this thing or person will provide satisfaction
- Only Jesus satisfies hunger of soul (Jn 6:35), and gives us rest (Mt 11:25)
- Only God is good and loves you - Rom 8:31-39

4. God is Gracious so I don't have to prove myself

- We all try to 'gain approval' from God, others, self
- God's grace is simple to understand but hard to grasp!
- Our world wrongly teaches strive to DO to define who you ARE
- God's grace declares we ARE because of God's grace, not by our DO
- our little g god = If I DO then God will accept me
- Rm 5:8; Eph 1:3-6 We are accepted in the Beloved (Accepted by His grace)

Think & Discuss:

- **Review Solomon's life. What lessons do we learn?**
- **Discuss and identify the lies that we commonly believe that each of the 4 G Truths help overcome.**
- **Spend time discussing how the 4 G Truths can set you free from following other gods.**
- **Spend time this week rehearsing the 4 G Truths. Meditate on Eph 1:3-14 daily thinking of these 4 G Truths.**