

The Second Commandment – Worship God Only As Directed

September 9, 2018

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 20:4-6

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1st: Worship God Alone – the Only True God

2nd: Worship the Right God the Right way... not with idols

The Second Commandment

RULE: Don't make or use idols for worship

- doesn't forbid art or beautiful objects, forbids their use in worship

REASON: idols are forbidden because God is a jealous God

- Jealousy is not often thought of in a good light... envy, desire to get...
- If something truly belongs to you then it needs to be protected: wife, child
- God's jealousy is only appropriate: Zealous Covenant Love
- If God were not jealous it would be like a person who really doesn't care if their spouse is faithful to them. – wrong.
- We often fail to grasp the intensity of God's Covenant Love for His people
- Religion is not a matter of consumer choice – it deals with ultimate reality

WARNING: perversity/hate visited on 3rd & 4th generation

- Is it fair to punish children for iniquities of their fathers?
- In Adam all are under judgment 1 Cor 15:22
- Achan's sin : Josh 7 caused death for soldiers and ultimately his family
- The sin of idolatry (hatred of God) can affect children

PROMISE: our God is a God of mercy to those who love Him

- God is God alone, God is Holy, God is Just. God is Merciful. God is Gracious
- Not just 3 or 4 generations... but a thousand... lasting forever!
- Consider Abram (Josh 24:2) served other gods & God called Him graciously
- God's Goodness and Grace on Abraham & descendants: Gen 17:7

Idolatry Applied

- Idol worship is not just a thing of the past.
- Inside/Outside Rule: Law doesn't just apply to external, but heart attitude.
- Calvin: *"man's nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols."*
- We make an idol when we worship an image rather than listening to the Word of God: Dt 4:15-16 - beware: idols, crucifix, icon, drama, or dance are not aids to our worship, but make it difficult to hear God's Word.
- We make an idol when we turn God into something we can manipulate: modern-day spirituality; If I do... then God will... Rather God wants us to trust Him and obey Him, not use Him
- We make an idol when we worship the god we want rather than the God revealed in the Bible: focus on just God of love, not wrath; higher priority on knowing the Bible rather than loving God...

How to Worship God the Right Way:

- Idolatry is the practice of making something into a god... we remake God into an image of our desire
- BUT WE were created by God for a purpose: to glorify Him; We were created to be His image bearers
- The FALL corrupted that image; since the Fall we have wrongly sought to create gods of our own making; the image of God in us was defaced; we no longer reflect God's glory as intended
- Christ the Redeemer was sent by God to REPAIR His image in us.
- Christ is the True Image of God (Col 1:15) who:
 - Created us for His glory
 - We rebelled against God's Word and Fell
 - God Redeemed us by sending Christ
 - Christ RESTORES us so we can live as His image bearers - 2 Cor 4:1-7
- God places us in His Church to be a community on mission for His glory
- Remember these 4 G's to help avoid idols:
 1. **God is Great** so I don't have to be in control
 2. **God is Glorious** so I don't have to fear others
 3. **God is Good** so I don't have to look elsewhere for satisfaction
 4. **God is Gracious** so I don't have to prove myself to self, others, God

Think & Discuss:

- **How often do we think of our lives being filled with idols? Discuss what things/values become our idols in our lives?**
 - **Does your life show your trust in God alone? Or do idols (worry, finances, etc.) fill define your life? You kids are watching... the world is watching...**
 - **Christ is the True Image of God (Col 1:15) who:**
 - **Created us for His glory**
 - **We rebelled against God's Word and Fell**
 - **God Redeemed us by sending Christ**
 - **Christ Restores us so we can live as His image bearers 2 Cor 4:1-7**
- How do we overcome idolatry by living as Christ's image bearers in our day-to-day life? Be specific and give examples...**
- **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.**