

Exodus 20:1-6

The First Two Vertical Commandments

February 21, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Psalm 119:45 - I will walk in freedom, because I've devoted myself to Your commandments.

Jesus: *"The entire Law hangs on these two commandments."*

- *Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength*
 - *Love your neighbor as yourself.*
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Exodus 20:1 - And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I'm the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Commandment #1 - No Other Gods

v. 3 - "You shall have no other gods before Me."

Isaiah 45:5 - "I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God but Me."

Jesus: *"Whoever loves father or mother or son or daughter more than Me isn't worthy of Me."*

The Bible: *"Solomon's request pleased the LORD."*

Solomon: *I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. I accumulated for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces.*

Deut. 17:16 - The king must not acquire great numbers of horses or send his people to Egypt to buy horses.

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1 Kings 10:26 - Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had 1400 chariots and 12,000 horses... Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt.

Deut. 17:17 - The king must not take many wives for himself, because they'll turn his heart away from the LORD.

1 Kings 11:1-3 - King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh's daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. The LORD had clearly instructed the people of Israel, "You must not marry them, because they'll turn your hearts to their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon clung to them in love. He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.

Ecc. 2:11, 17 - When I considered all the works that my hands had accomplished and what I'd worked to achieve, I found everything to be futile, a chasing after the wind; nothing to be gained under the sun... So I hated life... it's meaningless.

1 Cor. 3:11 - No other foundation can anyone lay than that which was laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Commandment #2 - Don't make a carved likeness/image of God.

v. 4 - "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that's in the water under the earth.

Numbers 21:8 - So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and mount it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live."

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John 3:14-15 - Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.

2 Kings 18:4 - Hezekiah removed the pagan shrines, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke up the bronze serpent that Moses had made, because the people of Israel had been offering sacrifices to it.

Acts 17:24-25, 29 - "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and doesn't live in temples made by human hands. Nor is He served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else... We shouldn't think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by man's skill and imagination."

1 – The Multiple Personality God – You've probably heard this. We all worship the same God. Different religions call Him different names (Buddha, Allah)--but He's the same God.

2 – The Divine Disconnected Watchmaker. This God created the universe, but then left it to run on its own.

3 – The Cosmic Cop. This God is like a cop, hiding behind a cloud, waiting to pull us over and give us a ticket for our bad behavior.

4 – The Non-Judgmental Buddy. This God doesn't care what you do. He won't correct you when you're wrong. He just wants to be your friend.

5 – The Teddy Bear God. This God is safe. He's like a child's teddy bear. He comforts us--but that's about it.

6 – The Me, Myself, and I God. This is the God who is a lot like us.

- If you tend to be permissive... you think God is permissive
- If you tend to be strict and legalist...

7 – The Uncle Joe God. This God is handed down to us. We follow him because our parents and grandparents did. Instead of being a God we know personally, He's like a long lost uncle. Disconnected from the present, but we have fond memories of him from our childhood.

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8 – The Puppeteer God. He's behind the scenes controlling everything--natural disasters, sickness, suffering. He pulls the strings but he doesn't tell us why and he doesn't relate to our suffering.

9 – The Party-Pooper God. This God wants to suck all the fun out of life. He says no to everything you want to do.

10 – The Cosmic Vending Machine In The Sky. This God will give you whatever you want if you insert the right coin--the right prayers and good deeds.

v. 5 - I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, (Now watch the balance here) visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.

Ezekiel 18:20 - The soul who sins shall die. The son won't suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son.

Genesis 1:27 - God created mankind in His own image.

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Psalm 119:45 - I will walk in freedom, because I've devoted myself to Your commandments.

Motyer: *Think of the Ten Commandments--not as cramping restrictions to a full life... but as the very gateway to the fullness we seek.*

The first four Commandments show us how to love the LORD.

The last six Commandments show us how to love our neighbors.

Commandment #1 - _____

3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Isaiah 45:5 - "I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God but Me."

There are many false gods in the world today. We have the false gods of entertainment, pleasure, fame, money, beauty, comfort, family, power and self.

What was the result of all this for Solomon?

Ecc. 2:11, 17 - When I considered all the works that my hands had accomplished and what I'd worked to achieve, I found everything to be futile, a chasing after the wind; nothing to be gained under the sun... So I hated life... it's meaningless.

Augustine: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

1 Cor. 3:11 - No other foundation can anyone lay than that which was laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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Commandment #2 - _____

4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image...”

Acts 17:24-25, 29 - "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and doesn't live in temples made by human hands. Nor is He served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else... We shouldn't think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by man's skill and imagination."

The problem with idolatry is it creates a false image of God that is inadequate to His deity and unworthy of His majesty. God is infinite and invisible. He's omnipotent and omnipresent. He's a living spirit. Therefore to carve Him into a piece of wood or stone is to deny His attributes. An idol makes the infinite God finite, the invisible God visible, the omnipotent God impotent, the all-present God local, the living God dead, and the spiritual God material. In short, it makes Him the exact opposite of what He actually is. An idol isn't the truth but a lie. It's a god who can't see, know, act, love or save.

How can we worship God the right way?

Rather than remaking God into our image, we need to be remade into His image.