

“Subtle gods and Graven gods”
“The Ten Commandments” — Part 2
Exodus 20:3-6

Review: The First Commandment—Worshipping the wrong gods.

“You shall have no other *gods* before me.” Exodus 20:3

**“Let me become impatient, let me fix my heart on gain,
and I do not see God. If I enthrone anything
other than God in my life, God retires
and lets the other god do what it can.”**
Oswald Chambers

Conclusion: The First Commandment is concerned with worshipping wrong gods or allowing subtle gods to replace the real God.

1. The Second Commandment—Worshipping the right God in the wrong way.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.” Exodus 20:4

- There is nothing wrong with religious art.
- A likeness is not the real thing.
- Every likeness falls short.
- Man-made images of God arouse His jealousy.

“You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.” Exodus 20:5-6

2. Practical lessons on breaking the Second Commandment.

We worship the right God in the wrong way when:

- we place seeing above hearing.
- we make a particular expression of worship more important than the essence of worship.
- we imagine God as someone we can manipulate.
- we worship God for some of His attributes and leave out others.

- we divorce our concept of God from the product He produces in our lives.

3. God's Deep Mystery

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Colossians 1:15

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word... Hebrews 1:3

The Bible Project: The Image of God
You can watch this video again at thebibleproject.com.
(Menu, The Goods, Biblical Themes, The Image of God)

Conclusion: We don't worship an image of Jesus, we worship the person of Jesus. We worship the right God in the right way when we center our worship on the person and work of Jesus, and that worship leads to transformation of our lives.

Because of sin, God's image is distorted in us but not lost.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Romans 1:21-23

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. James 3:9

Recovering more of God's image:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Colossians 3:9-10

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

God is love. So, let us desire to bear more and more of God's image in love.

The complete restoration of God's image:

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2