

**The Ten Commandments Sunday School Class:**  
**The Second Commandment | August 10, 2025 | Alex Mark**

1. **The heart of the Second Commandment:** God is too glorious to be depicted with images, and therefore every human effort to depict Him is necessarily an idol.
  - a. Exodus 20:4–6- [4] “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. [5] You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
2. **This commandment is a safeguard for:**
  - i. **The honor of God:**
    1. The Chalcedon Formula (451AD): “of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the Godbearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons.
  - ii. **The orthodoxy of Men:**
    1. When we worship God our way rather than God’s way, it’s a mark of willful self-indulgence rather than joyful self-sacrifice. Orthodoxy will not stand long when we deviate from How God calls us to worship.
  - iii. **The Sufficiency of the Scriptures:**
    1. “Because God does not speak to us every day from the heavens, there are only the Scriptures, in which he has willed that his truth should be published.” -John Calvin
3. **What this commandant requires and forbids:**
  - a. **Q. 50. What is required in the second commandment?**

A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word.

**b. Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?**

A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.

**c. Q. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?**

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

**d. Q. 108. What are the duties required in the second commandment?**

A. The duties required in the second commandment are, the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his Word; particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; the reading, preaching, and hearing of the Word; the administration and receiving of the sacraments; church government and discipline; the ministry and maintenance thereof; religious fasting; swearing by the name of God, and vowing unto him: as also the disapproving, detesting, opposing, all false worship; and, according to each one's place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry.

**e. Q. 109. What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment?**

A. The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, all devising, counselling, commanding, using, and anywise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself; tolerating a false religion; the making any representation of God, of all, or of any of the three Persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; all worshiping of it, or God in it or by it; the making of any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them; all superstitious devices, corrupting the worship of God, adding to it, or taking from it, whether invented and taken up of ourselves, or received by tradition from others, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretence whatsoever; simony; sacrilege; all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed.

**4. Application:**

- a. Worship is God-centered, not man-centered
- b. We live in the most image-driven age in history, and we must be particularly vigilant to keep the Word central.
- c. Realize that our true worship takes place, not here in this room, but rather in glory, in the throneroom of God.