

The Ten Commandments – Week 2

The Image

Main Text: Exodus 20:4-6

Main Idea

The second commandment teaches us not only **who** to worship, but **how** to worship. God forbids creating images that represent Him because every image falls short of His glory. Rather than worshipping a god of our own making, we are called to worship God as He has revealed Himself and to look to Jesus, the perfect image of God.

Introduction

The first commandment answers the question, “**Who should we worship?**” The answer is God alone.

The second commandment answers a different question: “**How should we worship Him?**”

God warns His people not to make idols or images to represent Him. While the nations around Israel worshiped gods made of stone, wood, and metal, the Lord called His people to worship Him according to His revelation rather than their imagination. Every image ultimately distorts who God is because His greatness cannot be reduced to something created by human hands.

This commandment reminds us that true worship begins when we acknowledge God for who He truly is and reject the temptation to create a version of God that fits our preferences.

Key Takeaways

1. Acknowledge and Worship Him for Who He Is

One of the dangers of idolatry is creating a version of God that fits our preferences rather than submitting to who He truly is. An idol is ultimately a god of our own making. God calls us to worship Him as He has revealed Himself in Scripture, not as we wish Him to be.

The first commandment addresses the worship of false gods. The second commandment addresses false worship of the true God. We may not bow before statues, but we can still create distorted views of God by emphasizing only the parts of His character we like while ignoring the parts that challenge us.

God is loving, but He is also holy. He is merciful, but He is also just. He is gracious, but He is also worthy of reverence and obedience. True worship begins when we allow God to define Himself rather than attempting to redefine Him ourselves.

Supporting Scriptures

- Deuteronomy 4:15-19
- Isaiah 42:8

Questions for Reflection

1. Do I ever minimize or ignore parts of God's character that make me uncomfortable?
2. Have I created a version of God that aligns more with my preferences than with Scripture?
3. Am I worshipping God for who He truly is, or for who I want Him to be?
4. What influences most shape my understanding of God—Scripture or culture?

2. Behold Jesus, the True Image of God

If God cannot be accurately represented by images made by human hands, how can we truly know Him?

The answer is Jesus Christ.

Throughout history, God revealed Himself through His Word and His prophets, but ultimately He revealed Himself perfectly through His Son. Jesus is not merely a representation of God; He is the exact expression of God's nature. When we look at Jesus, we see the character, heart, power, and glory of God displayed in human form.

The second commandment points us away from man-made images and toward the One image God Himself provided—Jesus Christ. If we want to know what God is like, we look to Jesus. If we want to understand God's love, holiness, mercy, truth, and grace, we behold Christ.

The more we fix our eyes on Jesus, the less likely we are to settle for distorted views of God.

Supporting Scriptures

- Hebrews 1:1-3

- Colossians 1:15
- John 14:9

Questions for Reflection

1. How does looking at Jesus help me understand God more clearly?
2. What aspects of Jesus' character challenge me the most?
3. Am I intentionally fixing my eyes on Christ throughout the week?
4. What practical habits help me know Jesus more deeply?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God gave the command not to make idols?
2. How does the second commandment differ from the first commandment?
3. What are some modern ways people create a "god of their own making"?
4. Why is it important to worship God according to Scripture rather than personal preference?
5. What does it mean that God is "jealous" for His glory?
6. How does Jesus help us understand God's character and nature?
7. What practical steps can help us keep Christ at the center of our worship?
8. How can we guard against false ideas about God that develop over time?

Application

This week, spend time reading one Gospel passage each day and ask:

"What does this teach me about who Jesus is and what He reveals about God?"

Rather than shaping God into our image, allow Scripture to shape your understanding of Him. Ask the Lord to reveal any misconceptions you may have and to help you worship Him in spirit and truth.

Weekly Challenge

Identify one area where you may be tempted to redefine God according to your own preferences. Surrender that area to Him and commit to trusting what He has revealed about Himself through His Word and through Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

Sermon Date: 6-7-26

Senior Pastor, Todd Strain

Colossians 1:15

Bottom Line

True worship begins when we acknowledge God for who He is and behold Jesus, the true image of God.