

# The Ten Commandments – Week 1

## Above All

**Main Text:** Exodus 20:1-3

## Main Idea

Before God gave Israel the Ten Commandments, He reminded them who He is and what He had done for them. The commandments were not a way to earn God's favor, but a way to live in relationship with the God who had already rescued them. The first commandment calls us to put God above everything else in our lives.

## The First Commandment

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

This commandment is about both **priority** and **proximity**.

God alone deserves our worship, devotion, allegiance, and affection. He is not interested in being first among many gods—He demands to be the only God on the throne of our lives.

## 1. Identify and Reject the “gods” in Your Life

### Key Truth

Anything or anyone that competes with God for our ultimate trust, purpose, satisfaction, or security can become a false god.

### From the Sermon

The temptation for Israel was not to reject God completely, but to worship Yahweh while also holding on to other gods. The same temptation exists today. We may profess faith in Christ while allowing other things to compete for our devotion.

### Common Modern “Gods”

- Money and possessions
- Career and success
- Comfort and security
- Approval from others
- Relationships
- Pleasure and entertainment
- Technology and social media
- Family and personal ambitions

These things may be good gifts, but they become idols when they take God's place.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What are some common idols in our culture today?
- Why is it often difficult to recognize idols in our own lives?
- How can good things become ultimate things?

## **Five Questions to Examine Your Heart**

Use these questions to help identify whether something is competing with God for first place in your life.

### **1. Where do you find comfort and peace?**

When life becomes stressful or difficult, where do you naturally turn for relief?

### **2. Where do you find security?**

What makes you feel safe, stable, and in control?

### **3. Who or what do you praise?**

When things go well, who receives the credit and glory?

### **4. Who or what occupies your thoughts?**

What consistently fills your mind during your free moments?

### **5. Where do you invest your resources?**

What receives most of your time, energy, attention, and money?

### **Discussion Questions**

- Which of these questions challenges you the most?

- What do your answers reveal about your priorities?
- Are there areas where God is being displaced by something else?

## **2. Love and Seek the Lord with All You Have**

### **Key Truth**

The best way to reject idols is to passionately pursue God.

### **From the Sermon**

The first commandment is not only about removing false gods; it is also about loving God wholeheartedly. We keep God first by intentionally seeking Him, loving Him, and making Him the center of our lives.

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 22:37
- Matthew 6:33

### **Jesus Said**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.”

### **Practical Ways to Seek God First**

- Spend time daily in God's Word
- Develop a consistent prayer life
- Worship regularly
- Fellowship with other believers
- Serve God in your daily activities
- Evaluate priorities regularly

### **Discussion Questions**

- What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind?
- How can you intentionally seek God first this week?
- What habits help keep your focus on Christ?

# The Gospel Connection

Before giving the commandments, God reminded Israel:

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

God rescued His people before He gave them His commands. In the same way, Christians are not saved by obeying God's commands. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Obedience is the response to a relationship with God, not the way we earn it.

## Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 3:23
- Ephesians 2:8-9

## Big Takeaways

- God alone deserves first place in our lives.
- The first commandment addresses both priority and devotion.
- Modern idols often appear as good things that become ultimate things.
- Honest self-examination helps reveal competing gods.
- The best defense against idols is a growing love for God.
- Obedience flows from a relationship with God, not a desire to earn His favor.

## Memorable Sermon Statements

- “Who God is and what He has done is the foundation for everything that follows.”
- “God is not interested in being first among many gods.”
- “It’s not Jesus plus something else. It’s Jesus alone.”
- “Identify and reject the gods in your life.”
- “Love and seek the Lord with all you have.”

## Personal Reflection

This week, spend time prayerfully answering the five questions from the sermon:

- Where do I find comfort and peace?
- Where do I find security?
- Who or what do I praise?

- Who or what occupies my thoughts?
- Where do I invest my resources?

Ask God to reveal any competing loyalties and help you place Him firmly on the throne of your heart.

## **Leader Notes (Optional)**

**Encourage your group to:**

- Discuss modern forms of idolatry honestly.
- Remember that salvation comes by grace through faith.
- Reflect on areas where God may not be first.
- Identify practical ways to seek God daily.
- Commit to loving and following Christ above all else.

## **Closing Prayer Prompt**

Ask God to:

- Reveal any idols in your life.
- Help you repent of misplaced priorities.
- Deepen your love for Him.
- Strengthen your desire to seek Him daily.
- Enable you to keep Him first in every area of life.