

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

How to Love God and Neighbor

Wednesdays | 7:15 pm
May 28 through August 13
Pastor Kevin Timmons
Elder Scott Sears

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... You shall love your neighbor as yourself
Matthew 22:37-39



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What is Catechism?



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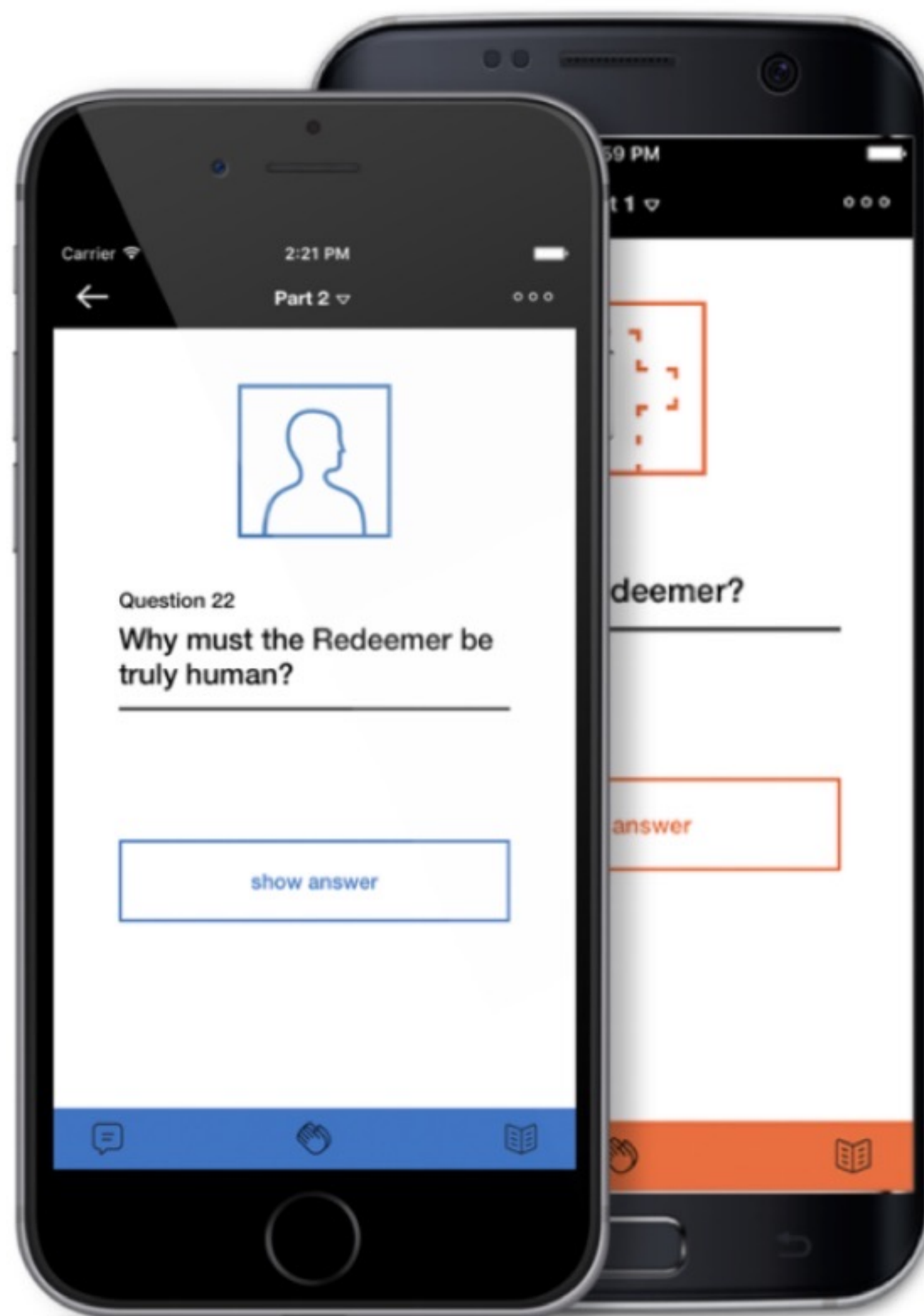
Question 7

What does the law of God require?

Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

Matthew 22: 37-40

And [Jesus] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."



Mobile App

Available for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices, The New City Catechism mobile app makes it easy to take all 52 questions and answers with you wherever you go.

The free app pairs each question and answer with a Scripture reading from the ESV, a short prayer, and a devotional commentary written by contemporary pastors, including John Piper, Timothy Keller, and Kevin DeYoung, and historical figures, such as Augustine, John Calvin, Martin Luther, and many others.

The app also includes kid-friendly songs designed to help children memorize the entire catechism.



What is the Greatest Commandment?

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.



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What commandments has God given to teach us how to Love God and Neighbor?

1. You shall have no other gods
2. You shall not make a carved image
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day
5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
10. You shall not covet



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Last week...



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The 2nd Commandment:

You shall not make a carved image

Narrowly | Broadly



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The 2nd Commandment

Narrowly



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Exodus 20:4-6 | 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. 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 the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.



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Does God prohibit all making of images?

Does God prohibit displaying images in a place of worship?



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Tabernacle

Exodus 25:18 | And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat.

Temple

1 Kings 6:18 | The cedar within the house was carved in the form of gourds and open flowers.



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So if the Second Commandment does not prohibit making images... and it also does not prohibit displaying images in a place of worship...

What does it prohibit?



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The Second Commandment prohibits making images **for**
the purpose of bowing down to them and serving them.



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Isaiah 44:14, 16-17 | He cuts down cedars... **Half of it he burns in the fire.** Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!" And **the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol,** and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"

Idolatry is folly.



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Psalm 115:4-8 | Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

Idols make us less human, less alive.



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"What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God... anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living... It can be family and children, or career and making money, or achievement and critical acclaim, or saving 'face' and social standing. It can be a romantic relationship, peer approval, competence and skill, secure and comfortable circumstances, your beauty or your brains, a great political or social cause, your morality and virtue, or even success in the Christian ministry."

–Tim Keller, Counterfeit Gods



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What about bowing down or serving images meant to represent the true God?



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Exodus 32:1-6 | “When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us **gods** who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made **a golden calf**. And they said, “These are your **gods**, O Israel, **who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!**” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the **LORD**.” And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings.



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Why not?

- Earthly things used to represent the supernatural become objects of worship themselves
- God is living - images are dead
- We worship creator, not created things
- Humanity is 'in the image of God' - images are lesser
- God chose to reveal himself by word rather than visibly, until the word became flesh (Jesus) who is now in heaven



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What about images meant to represent the true God, generally?



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WLC 109 | The sins forbidden in the second commandment are... 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...

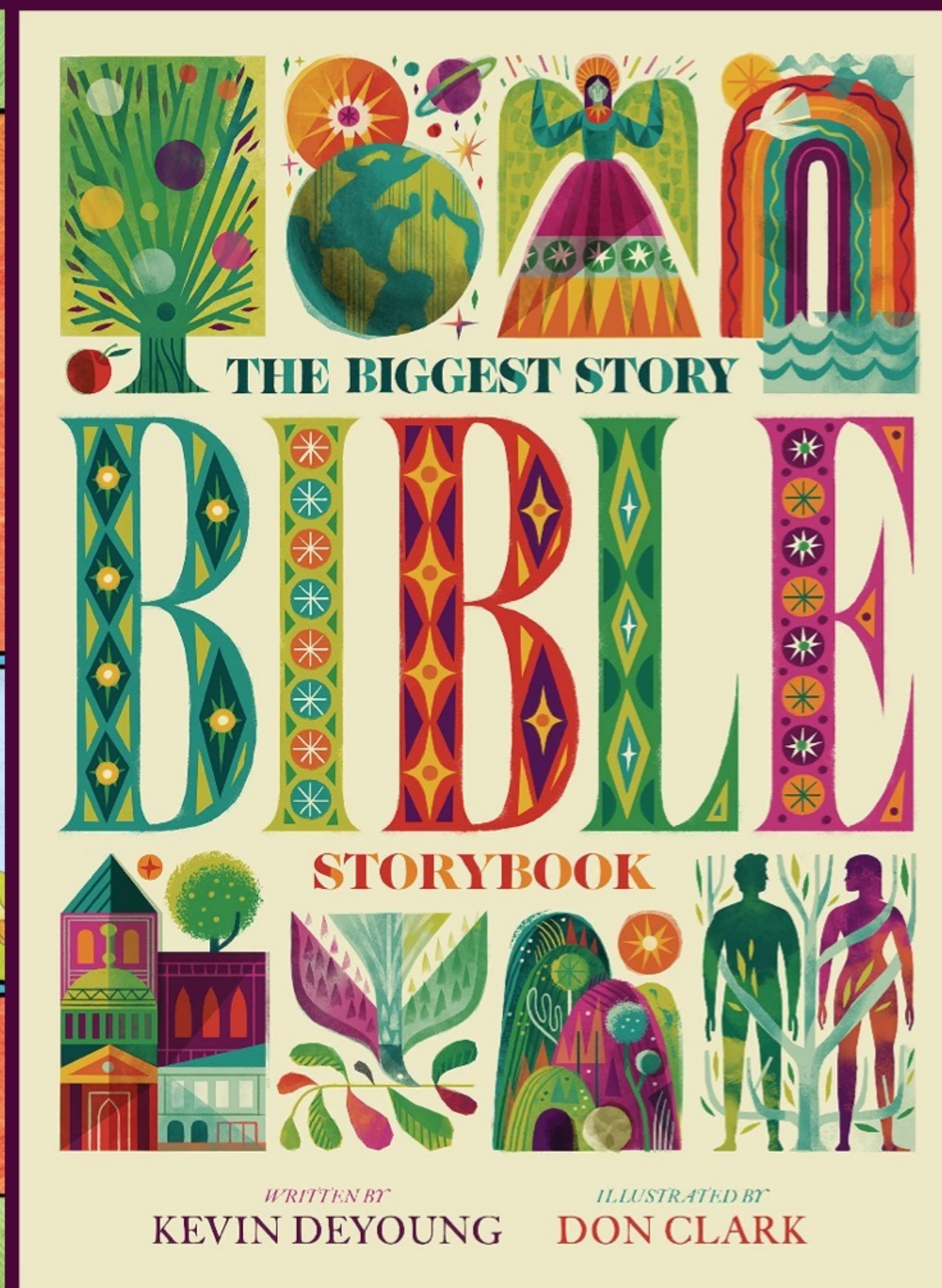
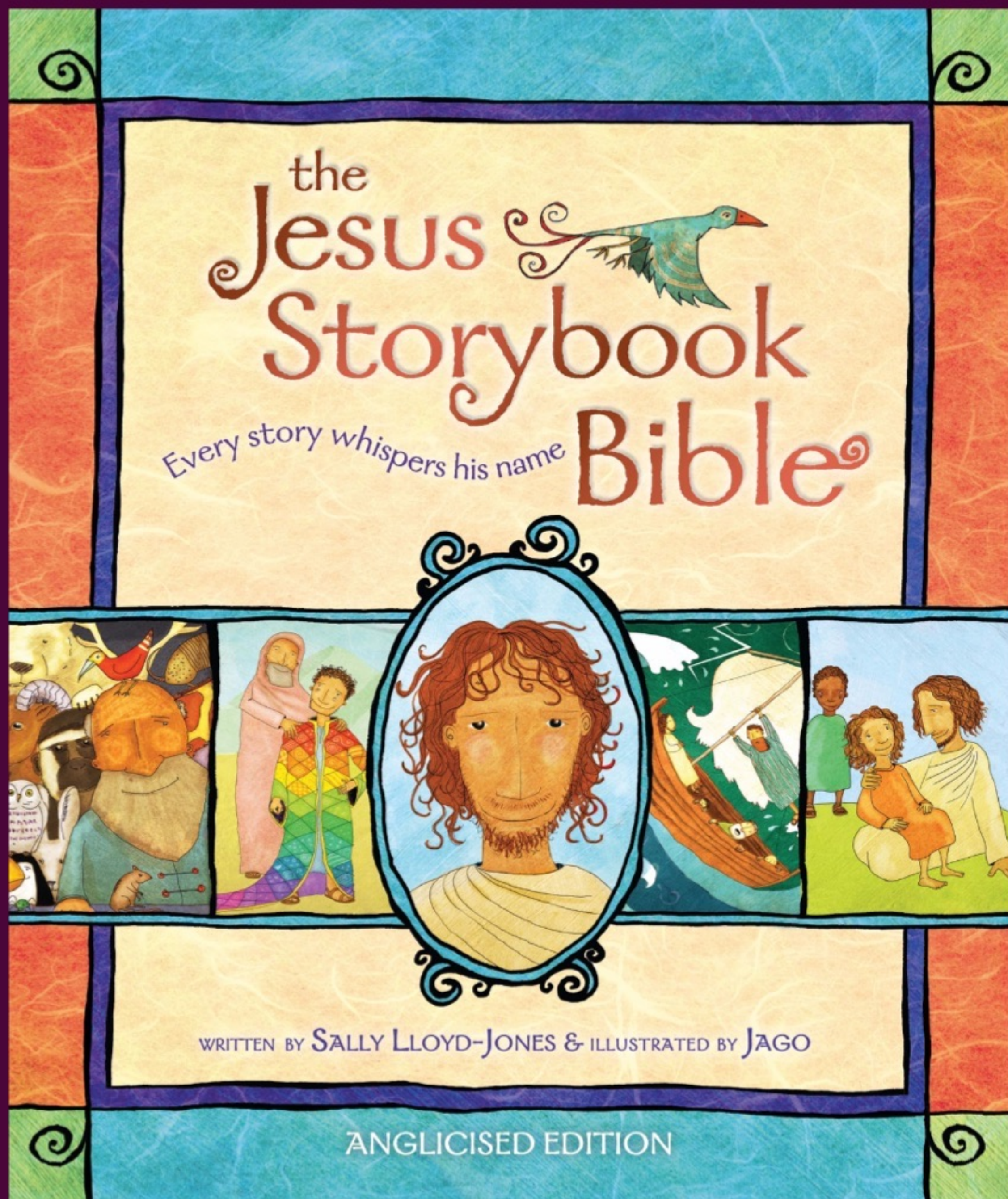


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"I affirm that images are not to be made and used to worship, not even to worship God. However, I take exception to Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 109 when it says one should not make "any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever." This seems to press the command further than Scripture does. There are some instances where it seems clear that biblical texts want the reader to picture something about God. For example, the Lord shows Moses his glory in Exodus 33 and the Spirit of God descends "like a dove" and settles on Jesus in Matthew 3. The most obvious example, of course, is Jesus Christ who is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15). Scripture portrays Jesus, the son of God and second person of the Trinity, in his human likeness in such a way that one cannot help but picture him in our minds. For example, Thomas touching his hands and side in John 20. Therefore, I think that in some wise instances, such as children's Sunday school lessons or evangelistic films depicting the life of Christ, so long as such images are not being worshiped, we may create an image of God that is consistent with the images Scripture creates of God."



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Discussion

1. Has the making and/or worship of images ever come up in your Christian Life before? When?
2. What are common 'idols of the heart' in your life or our society today?
3. What do you think the overarching principle of the Second Commandment is?



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The 2nd Commandment

Broadly



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WLC 108 | 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...



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WLC 109 | The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, all devising, counselling, commanding, using, and anywise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself... 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.



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Overarching Principle of the Second Commandment: Worship God in God's ways



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Leviticus 10:1-2 | Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and **offered unauthorized fire** before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.



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2 Samuel 6:5-7 | And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, **Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled**. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God.



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Overarching Principle of the Second Commandment: Worship God in God's ways



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Moral Law

Relates to God and his character, love for God and neighbor, what is righteous and unrighteous, holy and unholy. Still applies.

Ceremonial Law

Relates to tabernacle and temple worship, offerings and sacrifices, ritual cleanliness and purity. Does not apply today - Christ has fulfilled!

Civil Law

Relates to OT Israel as nation-state with civil sanctions and penalties for violating the law. Does not apply today - Gospel going to all nations!



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2nd Commandment

Moral Law

Do not make an images for the purpose of worshiping God,
Worship God in God's ways.

Ceremonial Law

Do not offer unauthorized incense, do not touch the holy things
(like the ark of the Covenant)

Civil Law

Penalty of death if you offer unauthorized incense or touch the
holy things.



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How We Worship at Canyon Creek - Isaiah 6:1-7

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."



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Call to
Worship

Confess
Sin

Assurance



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How We Worship at Canyon Creek

Singing | Colossians 3:16 | ...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...

Baptisms | Matthew 28:19 | Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading | 1 Timothy 4:13 | Devote yourselves to the public reading of Scripture

Preaching | 2 Timothy 4:1-2 | I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.



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How We Worship at Canyon Creek

Communion | Luke 22:19-20 | And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup...

Tithes and Offerings | 1 Corinthians 6:2 | On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.

Benediction | Numbers 6:22-27 | The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.' So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."



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Loving God through the 2nd Commandment

Action

Negative: Do not make images for the purpose of bowing down and serving them, not even to worship the true God.

Positive: Worship God in the ways God commands

Allegiance:

Worship is Covenant Renewal. Worship God how he asks to be worshiped - just because it's him who asked.

Affection:

God is worthy of our praise. And it's good we don't need a carved image to access him. He's invisible and omnipresent.



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Matthew 28:20 | And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.



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Psalm 115:4-8

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

Assurance of Grace | Isaiah 35:4-6a

Say to those who have an anxious heart, *"Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."* Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.



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