

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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Today

- 1 | Introduction
- 2 | Do the Ten Commandments still apply today?
- 3 | Love and the Ten Commandments
- 4 | The 1st Commandment: You shall have no other gods



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Introduction



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Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



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Psalm 119

I find my delight in your commandments, which **I love**. I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which **I love**, and I will meditate on your statutes (vv. 47-48).

Oh how **I love** your law! It is my meditation all the day (v. 97).

I hate the double-minded, but **I love** your law (v. 113).

Therefore **I love** your commandments above gold, above fine gold (v. 127).

Great peace have **those who love** your law; nothing can make them stumble (v. 165).



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Where in the Bible are the Ten Commandments?



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Where in the Bible are the Ten Commandments?

Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5



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¹ And God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

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 the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:1-17



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⁷ "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20:1-17



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¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Exodus 20:1-17



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The Ten Commandments

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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Westminster Larger Catechism 99

1. The law is perfect and binds everyone to full conformity in the whole man unto the righteousness thereof, and unto entire obedience forever; so as to **require the utmost perfection of every duty**, and to **forbid the least degree of every sin**.
2. It is spiritual and so reaches the **understanding, will, affections**, and all other powers of the soul; as well as words, works, and gestures.
3. That one and the same thing, in diverse respects, is **required or forbidden in several commandments**.
4. Where a duty is commanded, **the contrary sin is forbidden**; and where a sin is forbidden, **the contrary duty is commanded**. Where a promise is annexed, **the contrary threatening is included**; and where a threatening is annexed, **the contrary promise is included**.



Schedule

May 28th | You shall have no other gods

June 4th | You shall not make a carved image

June 11th | You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain

June 18th | Remember the Sabbath day

June 25th | NO CLASS - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 2nd | Honor your father and mother

July 9th | You shall not murder

July 16th | NO CLASS - SESSION MEETING

July 23rd | You shall not commit adultery

July 30th | You shall not steal

August 6th | You shall not bear false witness

August 13th | You shall not covet



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Do the Ten Commandments Still Apply?



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YES!



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Matthew 5:17-18 | Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law** until all is accomplished.



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1st Commandment

John 10:30 | "I and the Father are one."

2nd Commandment

Colossians 1:15 | [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God

3rd Commandment

Matthew 7:22-23 | On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'



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4th Commandment

Mark 2:28 | So the Son of Man is lord even of the **Sabbath**

5th Commandment

Ephesians 6:1 | Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "**Honor your father and mother**" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."



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6th Commandment

Matthew 5:21-22 | “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not **murder**; and whoever **murders** will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

7th Commandment

Matthew 5:27-28 | “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit **adultery**.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed **adultery** with her in his heart.



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8th Commandment

Ephesians 4:28 | Let the thief no longer **steal**, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need

9th Commandment

Matthew 5:33-34, 37 | Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not **swear falsely**, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all... Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'.



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10th Commandment

Ephesians 5:5 | For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is **covetous** (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.



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Love and the Ten Commandments



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Matthew 22:34-40 | But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he 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."



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Romans 13:8-10 | Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**" Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Galatians 5:14 | For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**"



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Deuteronomy 6:4-5 | Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**

Leviticus 19:18 | You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the Lord.



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**If I keep the Ten Commandments does that mean I
love God and neighbor?**



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**If I keep the Ten Commandments does that mean I
love God and neighbor?**

No.

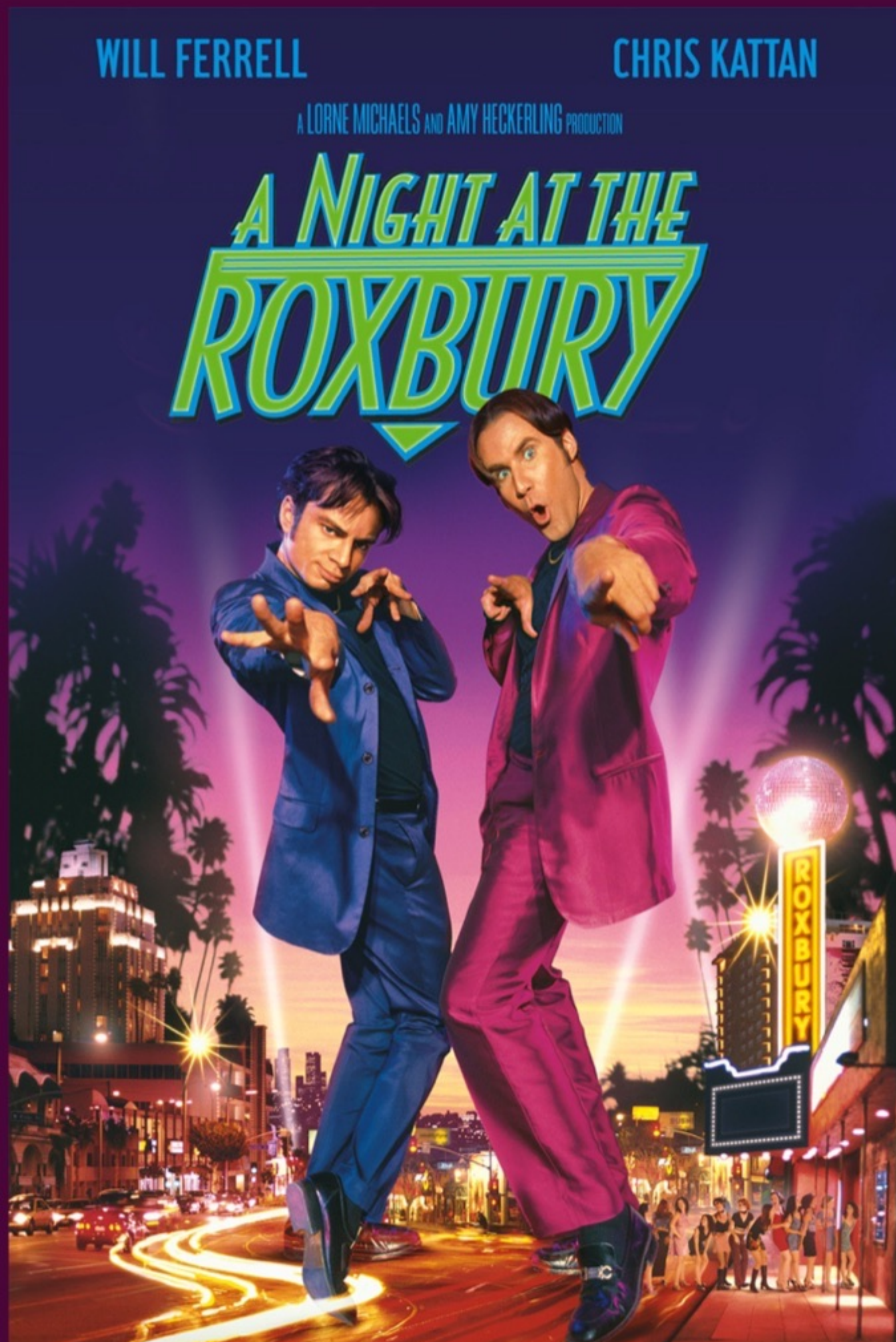


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1 Corinthians 13:1-3 | If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.



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What is love?



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Three perspectives on love:

1. Love is affection
2. Love is allegiance
3. Love is action



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In the Context of Exodus

Affection: God delivered Israel from slavery; therefore, they should be joyful, grateful, and enamored

Allegiance: God made a covenant with Israel; therefore, they should be loyal

Action: God gave Israel the Ten Commandments; therefore, they should obey



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Notice the Order:

Salvation then Covenant then Commandments

-or-

Affection then Allegiance then Action



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Loving God

Affection: Grateful, joyful, enamored, etc

Allegiance: Covenant Loyalty

Action: Obedience, reorienting your life



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Loving Neighbor

Affection: Compassion

Allegiance: Commitment

Action: Justice, mercy, humility



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Working Backwards with Each Commandment

Action: What should we not do? What should we do?

Allegiance: How are our loyalties or commitments disordered? How ought they be ordered?

Affection: What is motivating or putting fear in our hearts?
What should motivate or stir our hearts?



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Discussion

1. When you think about the Ten Commandments, which one comes to mind first? What about last? Why?
2. When you think about what love is, which do you think of most naturally: Affection, Allegiance, or Action? What about least naturally?
3. Why is it important that salvation comes before covenant which comes before commandments? What happens if we get the order wrong?



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The 1st Commandment: You shall have no other gods



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Exodus 20:1-3 | And God spoke all these words saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."



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Action: What should we not do?

Negative: Have no other gods

- Believing in no god (atheism, agnosticism, secularism**)
- Believing there is a god but having no god (deism)
- Having another god / religion (Hinduism, Buddhism)
- Denying Jesus is God (Islam, Judaism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness)
- Having multiple gods (polytheism)
- Believing all gods are right (pluralism)**
- Believing everything is god (pantheism)
- God-substitutes (idols of the heart)**
- Erroneous beliefs about God**
- God in your own image **



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WLC 105 | ...ignorance, forgetfulness, misapprehensions,
false opinions... bold and curious searching into his secrets...
distrust... lukewarmness... discontent and impatience at his
dispensations... ascribing the praise of any good we either
are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other
creature.



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Action: What should we do?

Positive: God is your only God

- Acknowledge God as your one and only God
- Worship, glorify, praise, thank God
- Take care to please God
- Be sorrowful when you offend God
- Walk humbly with God



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WLC 104 | ...thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; believing him; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him; calling upon him.



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*“Cheer up: You're a worse sinner than you ever dared
imagine, and you're more loved than you ever dared hope.”*

—

Jack Miller



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Allegiance: How are our loyalties or commitments disordered?

This command essentially is loyalty and commitment to God alone.

Diagnostic Questions:

1. What challenges your commitment or loyalty to God alone?
2. What are you looking to for hope, meaning, significance, control, comfort, etc instead of God alone.
3. What good gifts given by God have become more important to you than the gift-giver?



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Affection: What should motivate or stir our hearts?

- Negative: What poor motivations or fears are in our hearts?
- Positive: What reasons do you have to be grateful to, joyful for, or enamored with God?



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Exodus 2:23-24 | During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And **God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

Romans 5:8 | God shows his love for us in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.



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Assurance of Grace | 1 John 1:7, 9

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



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