

## Life of Moses, Part 37 -- The Ten Commandments, Part 3 -- Commandment #2 – Idols

"I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me." Exodus 20:2, 3

Commandment #1 demands that we enthrone God as the exclusive Lord of our lives and that we de-throne ourselves.

"In light of all God's undeserved mercies to us . . . this is our reasonable service." Romans 12:1

It is totally appropriate for God to ask us for this kind of commitment -- and it is totally appropriate for us to give it to Him!

"You shall not make for yourself idols in the form of anything in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them." Exodus 20:4, 5a

- Commandment #1 – "You shall love God supremely."
- Commandment #2 – "You shall not allow anyone or anything to replace God as the supreme love of your life."
- Every man, woman and child ever born, was born to worship something.
- Man has an instinctive drive to worship something higher than himself.

Problem = unregenerate man cannot worship the true and living God.

We are all born spiritually ". . . dead in our trespasses and sins." Ephesians 2:1

Dr. Christopher Carroll, Johns Hopkins University, Professor of Economics -- "Why Do the Rich Save So Much?"

#1 – NOT philanthropy – because the 60 richest people in the world only gave away 1.1% of their wealth in 2006

#2 – NOT to spend it on themselves – because "no one could spend that much"

Larry Ellison – Oracle – would have to spend \$30 million per week just to keep his wealth from increasing!

#3 – NOT to pass it on to their children – because only 4% of the super-rich said that "providing inheritance for their kids" ranked in their top five reasons for amassing wealth

"It is because they love money, not for what it can buy, but just for its own sake." Dr. Carroll

"There can be idolatry without physical idols. Whatever sets up a rival interest in our souls, absorbing the love and service which belongs to God alone – this is another god and an idol."

"Why is idolatry such a big deal to God?"

". . . for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God." Exodus 20:5b

"You shall worship no other gods, for the LORD, whose name is 'Jealous' is a jealous God." Exodus 34:14

". . . with their idols, they have committed adultery." Ezekiel 23:37

God hates idolatry with a passion because, to Him, it is adultery!

Summary -- The bottom line of Commandment #2 is that, when it comes to our love and devotion, God wants no rivals!

SO WHAT?

"Dear friends, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21

"Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry." 1 Corinthians 10:14

Idol #1 -- Idol of Family Ties

"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword." Matthew 10:34

*"For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be the members of his own household." Matthew 10:35*

*"He who loves father or mother or son or daughter more than Me –is not worthy of Me." Matthew 10:37*

*Jesus is okay with us loving our families -- but He's not okay with us making idols out of our families.*

*Idol #2 -- Idol of Worldly "Stuff"*

*"Do not love the world or the things in the world. For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life -- is not from the Father." 1 John 2:15*

*"The eyes of man are never satisfied." Proverbs 27:20*

*Idol #3 -- Idol of Self*

*"These men who have turned the world upside down have come here now . . . They are defying Caesar's decrees -- by saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." Acts 17:7*

*Idol #3 is "ourselves" -- we put ourselves on the throne of our life and we worship ourselves!*

*". . . the boastful pride of life . . ." 1 John 2:15*

*"Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought, but rather, use sober judgment." Romans 12:3*

*When we worship ourselves, we worship a really puny god.*

*"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance, how you have endured hardships for My name and have not grown weary, and how you have rejected false teachers." Revelation 2:2, 3*

*"Yet I have this against you -- you have lost your first love. So repent and do the things you did at first." Revelation 2:4*

*#1 – An unhealthy love of family ties*

*#2 – An inordinate love for earthly stuff*

*#3 – A twisted love of self*

*"For the eyes of the LORD go to-and-fro throughout the earth . . . looking for those whose hearts are completely His . . . That He might show Himself mighty on their behalf." 2 Chronicles 16:9*

Real power in the Christian life comes from being truly, passionately and utterly in love with Jesus Christ.

*None of us can live an idol-free life in our own strength.*

*"Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love."*

*As followers of Christ, the only way we can obey Commandment #2 is:*

- By confessing to God our utter inability to do this in our own strength*
- By relying on the power of the Holy Spirit everyday to de-activate our fleshly passions and to enthrone Jesus Christ as the #1 love of our life*