

4. Don't reduce God by worshipping Him for some of His attributes instead of all of His attributes.

6. God gave us an image to worship, His name is Jesus.

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
Colossians 1:15 (ESV)*

*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,
..., Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)*

*Jesus said to him...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father... John
14:9 (ESV)*

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. What is the relationship between the first and second commandment?
How are they different? How do they inform one another?
2. **Read Isaiah 40:12-26.**
 1. What does this text tell us are God's abilities?
 2. How does God's greatness compare to any man-made thing that helps us in worship or that becomes an object of worship?
3. **Read Exodus 20:5.** Exodus 20:5 talks about God's jealousy. How is God's jealousy different from the way we often speak of jealousy today? Why does making any object to represent God in worship arouse intense feelings of jealousy in God, like a husband seeing his wife in the arms of another man?
4. Exodus 20:5 speaks of the generational impact of breaking this command. How have you seen the generational impact of violating this command? Have you seen it in your family?
5. **Read Ephesians 5:5.** What makes idols appealing? What are ways Christians are tempted to make them and worship them?
6. **EXTRA CREDIT: Read Acts 17:16-34.** What was Paul's strategy for sharing the good news of Jesus in Athens? How did he take a bad thing—their idolatry, and use it as a way to tell them about Jesus? What can we learn from this passage about effectively sharing Jesus in our culture?



Command 2 – Have No Graven Images of God

June 3, 2018

"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. Exodus 20:4-6 (ESV).

1. What does the second commandment mean?

"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. Exodus 20:4 (ESV)

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!" Exodus 32:4 (ESV)

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." Exodus 32:5 (ESV)

2. Why did God forbid a man-made image to help us in worship?

You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God,..., Exodus 20:5a (ESV)

1. Graven images always make God smaller.

“Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. Deuteronomy 4:15–18 (ESV)

since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 1 Peter 1:23 (ESV)

2. Graven images divert our worship from the creator to His creation.

He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). 2 Kings 18:4 (ESV)

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. Acts 17:24–25 (ESV)

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. Acts 17:29 (ESV)

3. Graven images leave us with the false belief that we can manipulate God through them.

And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” 1 Samuel 4:3 (ESV)

As soon as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said,

“What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” And when they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp, the Philistines were afraid, for they said, “A god has come into the camp.” And they said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. 1 Samuel 4:5–7 (ESV)

3. The Second Commandment's Warning — Breaking it will hurt your children.

...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, Exodus 20:5 (ESV)

And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. Judges 18:30 (ESV)

So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 1 Kings 12:28 (ESV)

4. The Second Commandment's Promise — Keeping it will leave a lasting blessing.

but showing steadfast love (to the thousandth generation) of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:6 (ESV)

5. How does this commandment apply today?

1. Be careful of church artistry that becomes church idolatry.
2. Avoid imaging God the Father.
3. Be careful of church worship that is experience-based instead of word-based.