



The Image of God Second Commandment

EXODUS 20:4-6

First Two Commandments

- ▶ This is not just about worshiping **no other gods** (first commandment). Rather it is about the **image of God** that suffers.
- ▶ The first commandment was about worshiping the wrong God. However, the second commandment is about worshiping God the wrong way.
- ▶ And yes, these two are different commandments

If I Say God, What Image Comes to Your Mind?



Is God a kind old man with a white beard to you? Like this?



For the
Israelites...

- ▶ It was the **golden calf** (Exo. 32:4-5; 1 King 12:27-28)
- ▶ By their rendering, The LORD is a calf to them



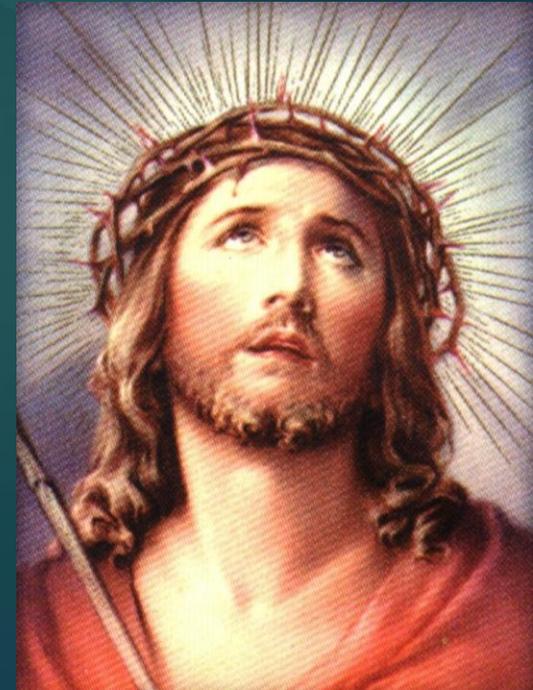


- ▶ Many churches today are still in direct violation of the second commandment, both in form and in fact.
- ▶ **Eucharistic adoration** or any veneration of images is both wrong and dangerous.
- ▶ There is **no difference** at all between worshiping a golden calf and a golden monstrance.



Misunderstanding God

- ▶ Note: this is not just idolatry, it goes beyond just idolatry; it is a **mockery** to God because of our misunderstanding of who God is. Thereby we **approach God completely wrong** (Rom. 1:21-23).
- ▶ With each image there is a specific **characteristic** of God that is emphasized (i.e. kindness, strength, forgiveness, etc.)



What Is the Problem?



- ▶ First, people just want a God that they want to have (i.e. kind old man)
- ▶ “You shall not make for yourself” We like to downgrade God to suit **our needs** (Isa. 40:18-20). We made these images to **fit us**.
- ▶ This downgrade comes from our **pride** in not acknowledging God as God (Rom. 1:21-23)
- ▶ This is worse than idolatry since we think **all is well**

- ▶ Second, “any likeness of anything” we are **confining God** within our own imagination, observation, and understanding
- ▶ People need a God that they can **visualize**. Rather than seeking understanding of God and a relationship with Him, they need **emotions** that are driven by sight and touch (1 King 12:32)
- ▶ A proper understanding of God requires **knowledge** and **study** (2 Tim. 3:15-17). People would rather have the benefit without the knowledge.



3. God is Jealous



- ▶ God is not just mocked by these inferior images, He is also **jealous** (20:5)
- ▶ We don't need to create an image because God has done so already—in **Jesus** (Heb. 1:3)
- ▶ God is not only jealous when we worship other gods, He is also jealous for His Son, as we downgrade His Son in our mind or with any image that can't begin to describe His majesty (Col. 1:15-16)

Conclusion

- ▶ There is a consequence in such vast misunderstanding of God (v.5). As we worship God the wrong way, we replace the relationship with God with some emotional experience that **resembles a relationship.**
- ▶ Nevertheless, God can restore anyone who chooses to love Him and follow His commandments (v.6) (i.e. follow Him)
- ▶ (Col. 1:15-18) Let us get to know God and worship Him instead of just a rendering of God

