

The Ten Commandments

**Graven Images,
Craving Hearts**

**Exodus 20:3-6;
Deuteronomy 6:1-14**

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Introduction

I. Worship the Right God in the Right Way

**“...cease to worship God, we
do not worship nothing, we
worship anything.”
- C.K. Chesterton**

II. Idolatry Explained (Exodus 20:3-6)

A. Fashioning gods

**“An idol is not simply a
statue of wood, stone, or
metal; it is anything we
love and pursue in place of
God, and can also be
referred to as a ‘false god’
or a ‘functional god.’ In
biblical terms, an idol is**

**something other than
God that we set our hearts
on, that motivates us, that
masters or rules us,
or that we serve.”
- Ken Sande**

**“An idol is something
within creation that
is inflated to function
as God.”
- Richard Keyes**

- 1. Limiting**
- 2. Obscuring**
- 3. Fabrication**
- 4. Control**
- 5. Visual**

**“In studying the Bible as a
young man, I found
intimations of the idea that
forms of media favor
particular kinds of content
and therefore are capable of
taking command of a
culture. I refer specifically**

to the Decalogue, the Second Commandment of which prohibits the Israelites from making concrete images of anything...I wondered then...why the God of these people would have included

instructions on how they were to symbolize, or not symbolize, their experience. It is a strange injunction as a part of an ethical system unless its author assumed a connection between forms of human communication

and quality of culture...The God of the Jews was to exist in the Word and through the Word, an unprecedented conception requiring the highest order of abstract thinking. Iconography thus became

**blasphemy so that a new kind of God could enter a culture. People like ourselves who are in the process of converting their culture from word-centered to image-centered might profit by reflecting on the Mosaic injunction.”
- Neil Postman**

Why is idolatry such an issue with the Lord?

B. He is a jealous God

“Now by that he shows what is better explained in other texts of Scripture, that he is slow to anger, inclined toward mercy, patient, and that, if anger burns for a minute, his loving-kindness is for life and permanent.

Thus there you have the true character of God... In fact, he wills to be known as good and merciful; and it is in that that his glory principally shines.”

- John Calvin

III. Idolatry Illustrated

A. Solomon

B. Paul in Athens

- Acts 17

IV. Idolatry Applied

A. Factory of idols

B. Test of idolatry

**- How can we identify
our own private
idolatries?**

1. What do we love?

**“The evil in our desire
typically does not lie in
what we want, but that
we want it too much.”**

- John Calvin

2. What do we trust?

“When a need for security propels my life or a segment of my life, I am again engaging in religious behavior. Rather than serving the true God, the god I serve is the approval and respect of

people, either myself or others. I am an idolater. I am not motivated by a need for security, I am motivated by lust for security rather than ruled by God.”
- David Powlison

- How can we save ourselves from our private idolatries?

1. Rather than remaking God into our image, we need to be remade into His.

2. We need to reflect that image in all that we do.

