

Second Word: You shall not worship a god of your own making
(Ex 20.4-6; 07-12-20)

Central Thought: God will not permit us to worship any object of our own desire or design or definition

I. Explain the commandment of God (4-5a)

A. Prohibits making of any images meant to represent one true God (4)

1. gods of our own notions deny God's right to define Himself; this places man over God
2. gods of nature

B. Prohibits worship of false gods (5a)

1. Source or style doesn't matter – God demands exclusive worship
2. God is verbal, not visual (Mohler) Faith comes by hearing . . . (Rom 10.17) (cf. 2 Cor 5.7)

II. Explore the character of God (5b-6)

1. God is transcendent (cf. v2: language of self-existence or self-definition)(cf. Rom 1.18-32)
2. God is jealous (for His own fame)
3. God is holy (without iniquity) (cf. 1 John 1.5)
4. God is loving (1 John 4.8; cf. 4.19) (cf. Psalm 2.10-12; Ps 89.14)

III. Examine some cautions about worshipping God

1. Guard against tendency to make God in our own image

Define God through our experiences and emotions
Bind God with the rope of our circumstances
Shrink God down to a size we can cope with or control
Desire to be our own mediator – God has provided the only perfect mediator in Christ (cf. 1 Tim 2.5)

2. Guard against creating counterfeit gods

Cultural i.e., patriotism or technology

Intellectual (or ideological) i.e., political or economical

Personal i.e., family; money; influence; individual freedoms

3. Be intentional to discover & worship the God of the Bible

God has revealed more about Himself in the Bible than we can ever discover or absorb in this lifetime
God has shown us everything about Himself that we need to be able to love Him and serve Him