

The First Commandment

Why teach the commandments?

They make us aware of what righteous living would look like!

To point us to our goal (where God wants to take us)

To function as our compass

They do not make us righteous... only Christ can do that. They simply provide for us a picture of godly living!

The First Commandment; the “offense” of the Bible!

Exodus 20:1-3

Then God gave the people all these instructions: "I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from slavery in Egypt. Do not worship any other gods besides me."

And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me." NKJV

1. The Offense: The first commandment forbids worship of any God besides the one true God.
 - a. **Common cultural thinking:** There is one God and he goes by different names. Some know Him as Yahweh, some as Allah, some as Jesus Christ. Some find him in the principles of Buddhism; some call him the Great Spirit; but all are worshipping the same one God. All religions are achieving the same goal but in different ways.
 - b. **Acts 4:12**

2. **When “god is not God** - Just believing in a “god” doesn’t mean you are worshipping the true God
 - a. **John 8:19, 8:42-44a**
 - b. **John 6:45**
 - c. **John 5:23**
 - d. **Acts 17:16, 22-31**

3. **A “god” can be anything** you live your life for, whether you think of it as a “god” or not. If you want to know who or what you worship, look at what you live for or how you live. What is most important in your life? On what or whom do you rely upon or trust in. What gives you security?
 - a. Self
 - b. Money
 - c. A cause or belief
 - d. **Mark 10:17-21**

4. **God is at work in us!** God took the children of Israel out of Egypt ... then God had to take Egypt out of the children of Israel