

The Second Commandment

Preliminary - Why teach the commandments?

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

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

The Second Commandment

"Do not make idols of any kind, whether in the shape of birds or animals or fish. You must never worship or bow down to them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not share your affection with any other god! **Exodus 20:4-5 NLT**

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God" **Exodus 20:4-5 NASB**

While the first Commandment forbids us to worship any other god, the second commandment warns us against making God into what we want Him to be (as opposed to embracing Him as He is, mystery and all)!

1. The literal command – Do not make an image of God
 - a. The Ark of the Covenant – no representation
 - b. Psalm 18:7-12**
 - c. God cannot be reduced to anything we know or imagine!

2. Our problem... we are constantly creating idols
 - a. “Man's nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols.” – **John Calvin**
 - b. We develop ideas of God created from our own imagination based upon our own desires, cultural traditions, and incorrectly understood scriptures.
 - c. “So our disappointments with God are often the children of our false expectations. And behind our false expectations lurk the idols, the false gods we worship

- d. Our Journey - Most of our Christian growth is becoming aware of the idols we have created and turning away from them toward the true God. –
3. **II Corinthians 3:18** – “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”