

The First Commandment

Read: Exodus 20:1-3

Main idea: The sanctity of ultimate allegiance reminds us that although there are many gods that humanity has revered throughout history, there is only one true God that deserves our love, adoration and worship.

Key Verses: “You shall have no other gods before (beside) me.” (20:3 ESV)

Key Principles:

- God announces Himself in His majesty as the great liberator and lawgiver for His people.
- The law is given to Israel on two stone tablets; the first deals with our relationship with God while the second deals with our relationship with others.
- The first tablet of the law will always take priority over the second tablet of the law.
- Although there is only one God, that created all things, there are other man-made gods that people choose to worship instead.
- Atheism, agnosticism, gods from other world religions and anything that we elevate to first place in our life are different forms of breaking the first commandment.
- In order to keep the first commandment, we are called to worship God alone by giving ourselves completely to Him, honoring Him in everything, and loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Discussion:

1. In what ways do atheists break the first commandment? What does Psalm 14:1 have to say about it?
2. What is the difference between atheism and agnosticism? Why does that matter? How would you share the gospel with either of them?
3. Why do you think people worship fake/false gods? What are some of the things that they promise, but can't deliver?
4. How did Paul deal with false gods in Acts 19, beginning in verse 16? What does that teach us about sharing the gospel with other religions?
5. What idols do Christians struggle with the most? Why do you think we elevate these things above our relationship with God? How can we overcome this temptation?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would rest in the grace and mercy of God in spite of our rebellion.
- Pray:
 - That we would remember that God belongs first in our lives above all else.
 - That we would be aware of our tendency to be idolatrous and flee from it.
 - That we would take advantage of opportunities to share the gospel with others.

I: The Sanctity of Ultimate Allegiance

Exodus 20:3

Exodus 20:3 - *You shall have no other gods before (beside) me.*

I. Are there other gods?

1. God created the whole world. Exodus 19:5
2. Man created other gods. Deuteronomy 4:28

II. What sins are prohibited?

1. Do not reject the true God. Hebrews 3:19
2. Do not worship false gods. Matthew 22:42
3. Do not elevate anything above God. Matthew 6:24

III. What duties are required?

1. Worship Him as God. Romans 12:1
2. Honor Him as Lord. Malachi 1:6
3. Love Him as Father. Deuteronomy 6:5

NEXT WEEK:

II: The Sanctity of God's Image

Exodus 20:4-6