



The 10 Commandments

Worship God the Right Way

The Second Commandment

Do we really know what it means to worship God? Jesus told the woman at the well in *John 4:23-24*, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Introduction: What is the difference between the first and second commandments? [*See 2 Kings 10:18-34 for an example!*]

1. **The first commandment** has to do with worshipping the right God and forbids us to worship false gods.
2. **The second commandment** has to do with worshipping the right God in the right way, and forbids us to worship the true God falsely.

The second commandment has four parts: the rule, the reason, the warning and the promise.

- A. The Rule:** The Israelites where NOT to make any man-made representation of God.
1. **The example of Ceaser:** *Matt 22:17-21* "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
 - a. **Man—the image of God:** Jesus is saying to give Caesar coins that bear his image—but give to God what bears His image. We are the image of God—and we give back to God by giving of ourselves. (*Your neighbor was made in God's image.*)
 - b. **Jesus—the image of God:** [*Col 1:15*] *Joh 14:7*; *Col 2:9*; *Rom 8:29*; *2 Cor 4:4* We worship Jesus because Jesus is God.
 2. **The problem with images:**
 - a. **Power-control:** People suppose that by means of the image they can control divine power. *Liturgies (prayer circles)*.
 - b. **Creation:** Many worship mother earth, river gods etc. By worshipping the creation rather than the creator you forfeit dominion over it.
 - c. **Our own image:** Creating our own image in our mind of what God is like and how He functions violates this command.
- B. The Reason:** The reason for the rule was the zeal and burning passion of God's love for His people. “For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...”
1. **Holy jealousy:** This is God guarding His own—His people.
- C. The Warning:** A father's sin can have consequences that last for generations. (Four generations.)
1. **Individual responsibility:** Generational sin can be broken through renouncing family sin practices, repentance and the blood of the Lamb. *Ezek 18*; *2 Cor 5:17*
- D. The Promise** The promise is more powerful than the warning because its blessing lasts not just for a few generations but for ‘thousands’ of generations.

Exodus 20:4-6 (NKJV)

(Intro) :1 And God spoke all these words, saying: :2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

(1) :3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

(2) :4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

:5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, :6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

How Do We Worship God the Right Way?

When God commands us **not** to make idols, He is saying that He “will not be captured, contained, assigned or managed by anyone or anything, for any purpose.” God wants us to trust him and obey him, **not use him.**

(1) **Worship is transformation:** Rather than remaking God into our image, we need to be remade into His image. *Rom 12:1-2*

(2) **Worship in truth:** Our worship is to be according to the revelation of the Word of God, which is the TRUTH *Jn. 17:17*. Reading the Word, praying the Word back to God, meditating on the Word, memorizing the Word and living the Word—is worship in truth!

(3) **Worship in spirit:** Worship must spring from the heart, through the influence of the Holy Spirit.

We worship God in spirit, when, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we bring all our affections, appetites, and desires to the throne of God; and we worship Him in truth, when every purpose and passion of our heart, is guided and regulated by the word of God.