



No Other Gods

Exodus 20:3

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In Exodus 20:3, the First Commandment calls God's people to uphold God's supremacy in all of life, and to not cultivate rivals to His supremacy.

Review of Exodus 2:1-2 – God is the lawgiver. His authority rests on the truth that He is the Lord over all of creation who graciously redeemed a people for Himself.

The Ten Commandments...

- Fuel our worship by reminding us that we were dead in sin before God redeemed us.
- Deter us from evil by showing us what our Lord and Redeemer has clearly forbidden.
- Instruct us in what it looks like to walk in the image of Jesus Christ, who obeyed God's Law perfectly.

Question to consider: What about the other parts of the Old Testament law that prohibit certain types of food, or mandate punishments for various crimes, or prescribe various rituals, sacrifices, and feasts, or that require purification rituals for those deemed "unclean"?

Three Categories of Old Testament Law

Moral Law – The timeless expression of God's will for man, summarized in the Ten Commandments. These commands were reinforced by Jesus and the New Testament writers.

Civil Law – Rules that governed everyday life in the nation of Israel. With the coming of Christ, the people of God were no longer identified as a nation (but rather as the church) and these laws were abrogated.

Ceremonial Law – Prescriptions for how God's people were to worship Him through feasts and sacrifices. These laws pointed forward to Christ and were fulfilled in Him, and thus, no longer in effect.

