

No Other Gods

Exodus 20:3

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor September 22, 2019

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 These laws pointed forward to Christ and were fulfilled in Him, and thus, no longer in effect.

The First Commandment defined

(June 2012) at redeemer.com.

1. Uphold the Lord's supremacy over your life.

2.	Do not cultivate rivals to God's supremacy.
-	what are some things that the Ten Commandments do for believers in Jesus Christ?
2.	There are three categories of Old Testament law that God gave to Israel through Moses. What's an example of the ceremonial law? Why are we no longer commanded to observe the feasts and sacrifices prescribed in the Old Testament? What Bible verses support your answer?
3.	How did Jesus summarize the First Commandment?
4.	What rival(s) to God's supremacy in your life have you been cultivating? With God's help how can you begin to put that rival to death? What attitude and action should go in its place?
5.	What is pictured in the final words of Exodus 20:3 – "before my face"?
6.	By God's grace, what is one practical step you will take this week to uphold the supremacy of Jesus Christ in your life?

Next Week's Sermon Text: Exodus 20:4-6

For further study, read Old Testament Law and The Charge of Inconsistency by Tim Keller