



No Idols

Exodus 20:4-6

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In the Second Commandment God forbids His people from all forms of idolatry and from making any likeness of the one true God to be used in worship.

Arrangements of the Ten Commandments

Idols defined (Exodus 20:5; James 4:1-3) – There is only true God who is deserving of our service, honor, or worship. Idolatry is giving that which is due to God alone to something or someone less than Him.

1. The Second Commandment forbids all forms of idolatry.

2. The Second Commandment forbids any likeness of the one true God that is used to worship or revere Him.

Reasons for the Second Commandment

1. God is invisible (John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17)
2. God is incomprehensible (Deuteronomy 4:34-35)
3. Man's imagination is limited and marred by sin (Exodus 32:1-5)

God is jealous. What is meant by the warning of punishment in Exodus 20:5?

Questions to Consider

1. How does James 4:1-3 offer a picture of idolatry? What does James say that the person is allowing to happen as a result of his or her passions and desires?
2. Are there idols in your heart; desires – perhaps even for good – that you are not always content to leave with God?
3. How can a firm trust in God's sovereignty help to guard your heart from idolatry?
4. What are some ways in which a likeness of God may be wrongly used in worship?
5. What is meant by the warning in Exodus 20:5 of God "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children"?
6. What difference might there be between showing reverence for a statue that depicts Jesus on the cross and using a picture of Jesus to teach a class about His life?
7. How are you helping future generations to learn about the worship of the one true God?

Next Week's Sermon Text: Exodus 20:7