



## WORD

<sup>4</sup>*"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or 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. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."* **EXODUS 20:4-6**

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God commands us not to worship idols. They are, however, not limited to carved images made of stone or wood. In this day and age, there are many kinds of idols that we are prone to worship. Here are three lessons that show how the second commandment applies to our lives.

### 1 An idol is a misrepresentation of God.

*"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."*

**DEUTERONOMY 5:8**

God does not want us to have any carved image, picture, or sculpted idol to help us worship Him. If we truly know Him, we will know that He is Spirit (John 4:24), and we cannot reduce the majesty and glory of who He is to an idol. What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?

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## 2 God alone deserves our worship.

*14You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—<sup>15</sup>for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God . . .* **DEUTERONOMY 6:14,15**

An idol is anything that takes the place of God in our lives. Therefore, an idol can be a career, relationships, finances, a hobby, a dream, and even serving God in ministry. These things are good, and can make us happy; however, they cannot take God's place. Only He is capable of fulfilling us, satisfying us, and giving us lasting joy and peace. Why does God deserve our utmost devotion?

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## 3 God's love and blessing is on those who worship Him.

*"You shall serve the Lord your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you."* **EXODUS 23:25**

If we choose to turn away from idols and turn to God, He promises to bless us and grant us His love and favor. We can only find true security and significance in Him—and He longs to show this to us, as we put our faith and trust in Him, every day of our lives. In what ways do you worship God above all else in your daily life?

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## APPLICATION

- Do you have beliefs or practices that are not aligned to God's Word? How can you apply what you have learned today? Are you willing to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
- Is there anything taking the place of God in your life? How can you put God first in your life, starting this week?
- If we are truly serving Christ, we are a living sacrifice before Him. What does this look like, in your own context? How can you put this truth into practice this week?

## PRAYER

- Declare your allegiance and devotion to God. Pray that He would always have supremacy in your life, over and before everything.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to obey and walk in His ways daily (Ezekiel 36:27).
- Pray that your life would reflect the love of God and that many others, through your example, would love and serve Him as well.



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