

“God is Great, Beer is Good, &  
People Are Crazy”:  
The Ten Commandments

---

Summer Elective '11

# The Desire for Relationship with a Personal God

---

The Second Commandment

# The Ten Commandments in the Context of the Redemptive Story

No.	Commandment (Exodus 20)	Pre-Fall Desire (that God seeks to redeem in us)	End times Fulfillment (Heb. 1:1-2)
1.	“You shall have no other gods before Me”	Desire for Worship	Jesus is Lord (Acts 10:36)
2.	“You shall not make for yourself an image...[and] bow down to them or worship them”	Desire for Relationship with a Personal God	Jesus is Immanuel (Matt. 1:23, Col. 1:15)

# Exodus 20:2-6

<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> *“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them;* for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

- **Do not make an image of a created thing to represent God AND worship it.**

# Exodus 25:18-20

<sup>18</sup> And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. <sup>19</sup> Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. <sup>20</sup> The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover.

- **Art and images can be a part of worship or the worship space but we cannot actually bow down and worship them.**

# Leviticus 26:1

<sup>1</sup> “Do not make idols or set up an image or a sacred stone for yourselves, and do not place a carved stone in your land to bow down before it. I am the LORD your God. - Leviticus 26:1

- **More explicit connection between two clauses of making idols AND worshiping it**

# How do I make God in my own image?

---

The Desire for Relationship with a Personal God

# Exodus 32:1-6,22-25

<sup>1</sup> When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

<sup>2</sup> Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

# Exodus 32:1-6,22-25

<sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” <sup>6</sup> So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry...

<sup>22</sup> “Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. <sup>23</sup> They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ <sup>24</sup> So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”

<sup>25</sup> Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.

# Observations of the Golden Calf Story

- False worship born out of lack of trust & impatience
- Led to indulgence
- Led to blaming & dishonesty
- Lack of self-control
- Became laughing stock to their enemies – witness compromised



Nicolas Poussin, "Adoration of the Golden Calf."

- *Not the "life to the full" that we would hope for in Jesus*

We make God in our own image  
when we pick and choose what we  
like about His self-revelation in His  
Word.

We must instead submit to who He  
says He is and not who we want to  
make Him.

---

# Reflection

- What characteristics of God have you found difficult to accept?
- How have you allowed the world's values to shape your understanding of God instead of allowing God's Word to shape it?

# Why not worship God in the image I want?

---

The Desire for Relationship with a Personal God

Powerless. Lifeless. Foolishness.

---

Results of worshiping a God of our own making...

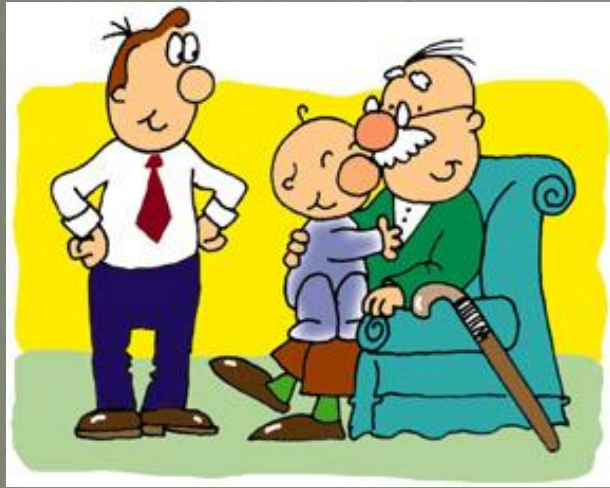
# Powerless. Lifeless.

- <sup>2</sup> Why do the nations say,  
“Where is their God?”
- <sup>3</sup> Our God is in heaven;  
he does whatever pleases him.
- <sup>4</sup> But their idols are silver and gold,  
made by human hands.
- <sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but cannot speak,  
eyes, but cannot see.
- <sup>6</sup> They have ears, but cannot hear,  
noses, but cannot smell.
- <sup>7</sup> They have hands, but cannot feel,  
feet, but cannot walk,  
nor can they utter a sound with their throats.
- <sup>8</sup> Those who make them will be like them,  
and so will all who trust in them. - **Psalm 115:2-8**

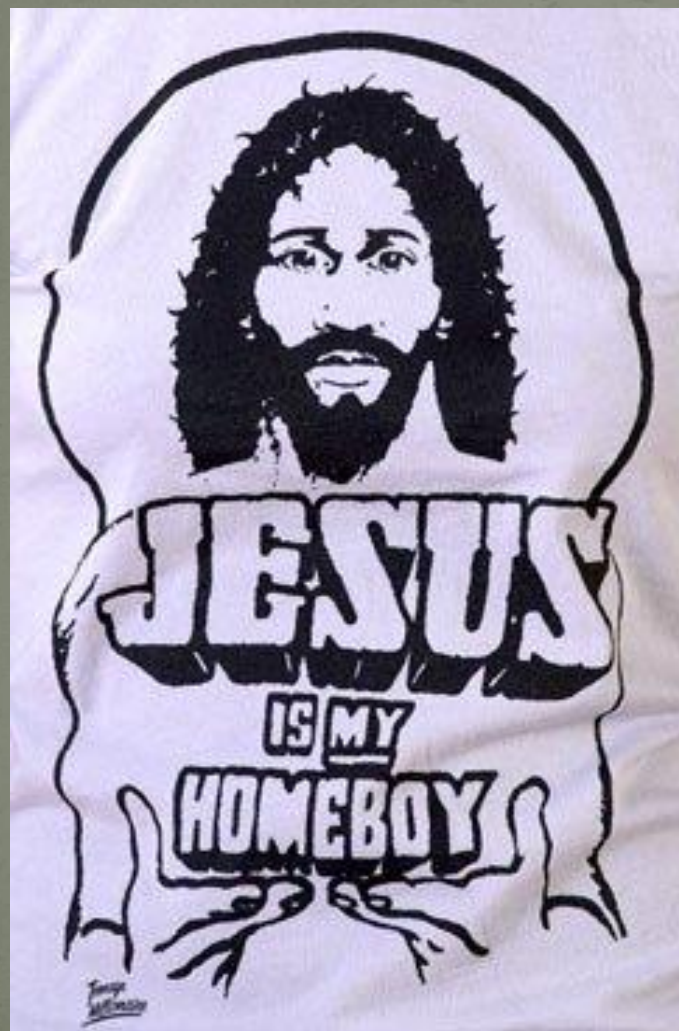
# Foolishness.

- <sup>14</sup> He cut down cedars,  
or perhaps took a cypress or oak.  
He let it grow among the trees of the forest,  
or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow.
- <sup>15</sup> It is used as fuel for burning;  
some of it he takes and warms himself,  
he kindles a fire and bakes bread.  
But he also fashions a god and worships it;  
he makes an idol and bows down to it.
- <sup>16</sup> Half of the wood he burns in the fire;  
over it he prepares his meal,  
he roasts his meat and eats his fill.  
He also warms himself and says,  
“Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.”
- <sup>17</sup> From the rest he makes a god, his idol;  
he bows down to it and worships.  
He prays to it and says,  
“Save me! You are my god!” - Isaiah 44:14-17

# God in our own making...



# God in our own making...



# God in our own making...

*I Need You To Love Me - Barlowgirl*

Chorus:

And I need you to love me,  
And I, I won't keep my heart from you this time.  
And I'll stop this pretending that I can,  
Somehow deserve what I already have

- “Jesus is my boyfriend” worship songs. Nothing wrong with them necessarily and in some ways reflect the truth of God as groom and the church as bride. Yet a diet of only these kinds of worship songs can reflect a God of our own making.

# Why worship God in the image of *His Son*?

---

The Desire for Relationship with a Personal God

# Colossians 1:15

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Personal. Relational. Royal.

---

Result of worshiping God through Jesus...

# Personal. Relational.

“<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).” - Matthew 1:22-23

# Personal. Relational.

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”

“This is my name forever,  
the name you shall call me  
from generation to generation. - Exodus 3:13-15

# Personal. Relational.

“So idols are lies, not because God is invisible or cannot be pictured, but because idols fail to picture what is most important about him – *his personality*, his ability to see, hear, speak, and interact with his creatures. *Without personality*, God cannot judge – good news for unbelieving hedonists, but bad news for the universe. *And without personality, God cannot love – bad news for everybody...* Only Jesus Christ fulfills the criteria of an image of God to whom man should bow down. *He is personality in its fullness*: seeing, hearing smelling, speaking, judging, loving. He is our Creator, not a mere creature. Worship of him brings salvation, not destruction. Those who bow down to him become like him – in abundant life, rather than death, and in the fulfillment of personality, rather than its destruction.” - John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*

# Royal (i.e. Power & Life).

- <sup>27</sup> So God created human beings in *his own image*.  
*In the image of God he created them;*  
male and female he created them.  
<sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.  
*Fill the earth and govern it. Reign* over the fish in the sea,  
the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the  
ground.” – Genesis 1:27-28
- <sup>13</sup> They have one purpose and will give their power and  
authority to the beast. <sup>14</sup> They will wage war against the  
Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is  
Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his  
called, chosen and faithful followers.” – Revelation 17:13-14

## C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

“The more we get what we now call ourselves out of the way and let Him take over, the more truly ourselves we become...The more I resist Him and try to live on my own, the more I become dominated by my own heredity and upbringing and surroundings, and natural desires. In fact what I so proudly call ‘Myself’ becomes merely the meeting place for trains of events which I never started and which I cannot stop...It is when I turn to Christ, when I give myself up to His Personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own...At the beginning I said there were Personalities in God. I will go further now. There are no real personalities anywhere else. Until you have given up yourself to Him you will not have a real self...”

## C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

Give up your self, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.

Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.”

*1. Will you interact with God in submission to His self-revelation or will you interact with a god of your own making?*

---

*2. Will you look to the Son,  
Jesus Christ, who is THE image  
of the invisible God, to be your  
righteousness & your boasting?*

---

