

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

Grad & Career Spring '11

The Desire for Worship

The First Commandment

Exodus 20:1-3

¹ And God spoke all these words:

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

³ *“You shall have no other gods before me.*

- **Worship God alone**

What is Worship?

The First Commandment: The Desire for Worship



WORSHIP

Romans 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

- Worship is a response to God's mercy to us.
- Worship is to seek a life of purity.

Joshua 23:1-3,6-11

¹ After a long time had passed and the LORD had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then a very old man, ² summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials—and said to them: “I am very old. ³ *You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you...*

⁶ “Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. ⁷ Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. ⁸ *But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now.*

⁹ “The LORD has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day no one has been able to withstand you. ¹⁰ One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as he promised. ¹¹ *So be very careful to love the LORD your God.*

Joshua 24:14-15

¹⁴ “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. *Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped* beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. *But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.*”

- Worship is a response to what the Lord has done for us and for how He has fought for us.
- Worship is setting aside or **consecrating** ourselves and our possessions for God's use – to serve Him.
- Worship is **separating** from the “gods” and things of this “world.”
- Worship is “holding fast to the Lord” – that is depending on Him alone.
- Worship is “loving the Lord our God”

Revelation 5:11-13

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”*

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”*

- Worship God because He is worthy not because He demands it.

What is Worship?

Worship is a loving response to God's work in our life, through consecration and separation, because He is worthy.

Why Worship?

The First Commandment: The Desire for Worship

Romans 1:25

“They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”

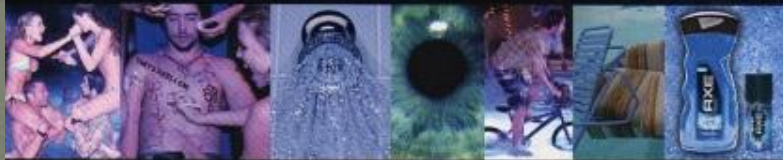
- In a fallen world, we can choose to worship the Creator or created things.
- Our fallen nature dictates that left to ourselves, without the Spirit’s work in our life, we choose to worship and serve created things.



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Why Worship God?

The First Commandment: The Desire for Worship

Jeremiah 2:23-25

²³ “How can you say, ‘I am not defiled;
I have not run after the Baals’?”

See how you behaved in the valley;
consider what you have done.

You are a swift she-camel
running here and there,

²⁴ a wild donkey accustomed to the desert,
sniffing the wind in her craving—
in her heat who can restrain her?

Any males that pursue her need not tire themselves;
at mating time they will find her.

²⁵ Do not run until your feet are bare
and your throat is dry.

But you said, ‘It’s no use!

I love foreign gods,
and I must go after them.’

- ***Idolatry Enslaves:*** Idol worship is likened to being an animal in heat with no restraint or a love addicted person who must find their mate.

Richard Blais,
winner of All-Star
season and more
Top Chef
challenges than any
other contestant,
“I hate everything
I do.”



The Words of Jesus on Worship Him

- “I have so that they may have life, and have it to the full.” – John 10:10
- ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” – John 4:22-24
- ²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30
- “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:31

Worshiping Jesus leads to life to the full, worship in Spirit and in truth, rest, and freedom. Idols enslave but Jesus fulfills our desires.

Blaise Pascal

“There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus”

Why Worship God Alone?

The First Commandment: The Desire for Worship

Matthew 6:19-22,24

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money** [*substitute money freely with status, power, approval, comfort, control etc*].

1 John 5:21

“Dear children, keep yourself from idols.”

- “This must mean that the only way to walk in holiness, love and truth is to keep free from idols. They are mutually exclusive. Underlying any failure to walk in holiness is some form of idolatry.” – Tim Keller, *Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything*.
- “Surely if it is wrong to worship Baal, it is also wrong to worship something that is even less than Baal pretends to be. And yet that is what we often do. People who would never dream of bowing down in an idol’s temple put other things ahead of God in their lives. Here the temptation is much more subtle, and the rationalizations are more readily at hand.” - John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*.

...Because Worship is Consecration

“If we love a *child* more than God, we make a god of it. How many are guilty in this kind? They think of their children, and delight more in them than in God; they grieve more for the loss of their first-born, than for the loss of their first love. This is to make an idol of a child, and to set it in God’s room. Thus God is often provoked to take away our children. If we love the jewel more than him that gave it, God will take away the jewel, that our love may return to him again.” – Thomas Watson, *The Ten Commandments*.

- *This is a tough quote that deeply challenges how we can easily put “created things” above God. I mean who wouldn’t love their child?! Many have lost children in this world and we should not read Watson as saying that anyone who has lost a child is because of their idolatry of that child. Difficult trials like that are often a mystery and only God can work that particular conviction in someone’s heart to confirm the truth of it. John Calvin said about losing a child, “God too knows what it is like to lose a child.” And for our sake! The main point Watson is trying to make is that God cares most about turning our hearts to Him so that we would return to our first-love.*

...Because Worship is Separation

- Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. – Exodus 34:14
- “Why is the Decalogue so negative?...The very notion of exclusive loyalty requires us to refuse rival loyalties. And there are rivals, others who tempt us to abandon our covenant with God. God has made covenant with us in a fallen world. So the negative focus reflects the reality of sin and temptation. Obedience to God in a fallen world always involves saying no – to Satan, the world, and our own lusts (1 John 2:15-16).” – John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*.

...Because Worship is Separation

- “If exclusive covenant loyalty-love is the root of all righteousness, then to give that love to someone else is the root of all sin...As the unfaithfulness of adultery betrays a marriage, so false worship violates the covenant at its heart. Thus, Scripture draws parallel between adultery and idolatry (Lev. 20:5; Jer. 3:9; Ezek. 16; Hos.1-4) and between faithfulness in marriage and faithfulness to the Lord (Eph. 5:22-23).” – John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*.

Application

- What are your idols?
- What are the things in your life that you trust more than God to bring you “life to the full”?
- What are things or people that you cherish more than God?

Hosea 2:14-16

¹⁴ “Therefore I am now going to allure her;
I will lead her into the wilderness
and speak tenderly to her.

¹⁵ There I will give her back her vineyards,
and will make the Valley of Trouble a door of hope.
There she will respond as in the days of her youth,
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

¹⁶ “In that day,” declares the LORD,
“you will call me ‘my husband’;
you will no longer call me ‘my master.’

What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?

Answer: The sins forbidden in the first commandment are, atheism, in denying or not having a God; idolatry, in having or worshiping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God; the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; the omission or neglect of anything due to him, required in this commandment; ignorance, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; bold and curious searching into his secrets; all profaneness, hatred of God; self-love, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part; vain credulity, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments, hardness of heart, pride, presumption, carnal security, tempting of God; using unlawful means, and trusting in lawful means; carnal delights and joys; corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal; lukewarmness, and deadness in the things of God; estranging ourselves, and apostatizing from God; praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures; all compacts and consulting with the devil, and hearkening to his suggestions; making men the lords of our faith and conscience; slighting and despising God and his commands; resisting and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature. – *Westminster Larger Catechism Q.105*

What are the duties required in the first commandment?

Answer: The duties required in the first commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; believing him; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him; calling upon him, giving all praise and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; being careful in all things to please him, and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; and walking humbly with him. - *Westminster Larger Catechism Q.104*

- Jesus has paid the price for the way we have broken the 1st commandment.
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of all the things required by the 1st commandment & He imputes that righteousness do us!
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See lyrics for
the song
Jealous Kind
-Jars of Clay

