

Introduction: The little boy who “wants the bike,” in all of us...

Review - The focus of the First Command: _____

Preview - The focus of the Second Command: _____

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

⁵You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing loving-kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Exodus 20:4-6 (NASB)

Understanding the Second Command: Historical Background

The Command restated:

Exodus 20:4-5a

- No man-made “idols” are to be used as a means of worshipping the living God (YHWH).

Exodus 20:4a

Summary:

1. God demands we worship Him in _____.

- No man-made “likenesses” (images – real, or imagined, pictorial representations of God) are to be used as a means of worshipping the living God (YHWH).

Exodus 20:4b

2. God demands we worship Him in _____.

- No man-made idols or images (real, or imagined) are to be worshipped or served.

Exodus 20:5a

The Reasons identified:

Exodus 20:5b-6

- God's character of “zealous love” demands it.
- Our future, and our children's children, requires it.

Conclusion:

God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24 (NIV & NASB)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between the First and Second Commandments?
2. In what way does each of these "Boundaries" protect our best interests?
3. Why does God so strongly abhor idols and images? How do they distort or reduce His character?
4. What does worshipping idols do to God's people?
5. How do we, as 21st century Christians, make idols in our day? How would God want this message to impact your life?