



## Message Discussion Guide Week of September 17, 2023

**Message:** The Ten Commandments, Part 2: Made to Worship

**Key Scriptures:** [Exodus 20:4-6](#), [John 4:19-24](#)

**Preacher:** Tom Parkinson

### Message Highlights:

The biblical truth that there is only one God means:

1. There is one human race, and we are all siblings of the same heavenly father.
2. No person or group is inherently more valuable than others.
3. There is one moral standard for all people.

The First Commandment forbids worshiping the wrong God, while the Second Commandment forbids worshiping God the wrong way:

- In Exodus 32, the Israelites made a golden calf to represent God. In so doing they were trying to worship the true God but were doing so in the wrong way.
- God is spirit, invisible to the human eye. There is no image that can adequately capture God.

Why is the Second Commandment important?

- Any image we create to represent God reduces God to our limited minds and imaginations. In so doing, we confuse the creator with the creature.
- Creating images for God ignores God's desires. God chooses to reveal himself to us through Word, not images.
- Creating images for God ignores Jesus. Jesus is the image of the invisible God ([Col. 1:15](#)). If we want to know what God is like, we look to Jesus.

How can we obey the Second Commandment?

- Keep worship rooted in the Word. All the elements of our worship should have scriptural basis.
- Guard your imagination. Be careful about allowing religious artwork, films, novels, or other objects to capture your sense of who God is.
- Honor the image of God in yourself and others. As those made in God's image, we are called to represent God in the world.

### Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What makes worship meaningful to you? What are the most essential things you need in order to worship God?
- 2.) From beginning to end, the Bible claims that there is only one true God, and that God is revealed to us in the Bible. What should we make of those who claim there are other gods, or who believe in a god other than our God?
- 3.) Read the Second Commandment in [Exodus 20:4-6](#):
  - a. What does it mean to “make for yourself an image?” What are some examples of this from history? What might it look like today?
  - b. What does it mean for God to be “jealous?” Is God’s jealousy a good thing?
  - c. Why is this commandment so serious as to require generational punishment for violating it?
- 4.) Are there any pieces of religious art (i.e., cross necklaces, stained-glass windows, church steeples, etc.) that are meaningful to you? Is it a violation of the Second Commandment to worship with these images? What is the role of visual artwork in faithful worship of God?
- 5.) [Read John 4:19-24](#)
  - a. What do you think it means to worship God in spirit and in truth?
  - b. The Samaritan woman was concerned about the proper place for worship. Is there a proper place for worship? If not, then why do churches have sanctuaries set aside for worship?
- 6.) What are some practical ways that you can worship God more faithfully in your own life? What are some ways that our church can be more faithful in our corporate worship?
- 7.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?

**Abundant Life Tip:** God made us to worship him, and worship is a matter of the heart. We need to be careful about placing too much focus on earthly accoutrements (buildings, altars, artwork) and keep our focus on a Spirit-filled encounter with God.