

No Substitute For God

Exodus 20:4-6

I. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...”

1. What is idolatry?

- i. “Idol” = “graven image” - speaks of something that has been chiseled or formed by the hands of man.
 - “Idol” or “idolatry” mentioned more than 220 times in Bible.
- ii. When David defeated the Philistines - 2 Samuel 5:21
 - “They left their images, and David and his men burned them”
 - Idols could be lost, abandoned, destroyed, defiled or stolen.

2. God is greatly against idolatry

II. The Requirement Of The 2nd Commandment – Right Worship

1. The 1st Commandment declares whom alone we may worship; the 2nd explains how He may be worship.

- i. God command us not only not to worship any other god, but not to worship Him, the true God in a wrong way.
- ii. It inculcates the true spiritual worship of the one true God.

2. Israel’s inferior substitution

- i. The golden calf - Exodus 32:1-6
- ii. The two calves of gold - 1 Kings 12:28-30

iii. The bronze serpent - 2 Kings Chapter 18:4

3. The impotence of idols – Jeremiah 10:5-10

III. Modern Day Substitution

1. We transgress the Second Commandment:

- i. When anything becomes a substitute for God in our lives
- ii. Whenever activity for God becomes a substitute for God Himself.

2. Examples of things that can usurp the place of God in people's lives.

- i. Family, work, career, hobbies, television, self, wealth, sports, cars, ministry, church building, etc, etc.
- ii. Whenever anyone or anything usurps the place that God should have in our lives, we're guilty of idolatry.

IV. The Reasons For The Prohibition

1. Divine jealousy

2. Divine action

i. To those who disobey

- He will visit the iniquities of the fathers on the children, on the third and fourth generations of those who reject Him.

ii. To those who love Him and keep His commandments

- He will show mercy, grace and loving-kindness.