

THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

Exodus 20:3



THE 1st COMMANDMENT IDENTIFIES THE ONLY TRUE GOD TO BE WORSHIPPED AND FORBIDS THE WORSHIP OF EVERY FALSE GOD INCLUDING:

FEELINGS, PERSONAL OPINIONS, IDEAS, PHILOSOPHIES, FOOD, PREFERENCES, DESIRES, LIVING THINGS, OR MATERIAL OBJECTS, SUBSTANCES, EXPERIENCES, PLEASURES, MONEY, BUSINESS, RACE, CULTURE, BIAS, EARTHLY GOALS, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, PERSONAL PLANS, ASPIRATIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS, SOCIAL ISSUES, FAMILY, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, TALENTS, SKILLS, ABILITIES, PERSONALITY, SOCIAL STATUS, HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS OR EDUCATION

The law (*10 Commandments*) is the great standard of righteousness. It represents the character of God, and is the test of our loyalty to His government. And it is revealed to us, in all its beauty and excellence, in the life of Christ.

God's character as a God of holiness, a God of goodness, compassion, and love combined, was expressed in His Son. In the cross of Christ God gave the mightiest pledge of justice and love. [Hebrews 9:13, 14, quoted.]

Those who refuse to co-operate with God on earth would not co-operate with Him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them to heaven. God will not take into his kingdom and give eternal life to those who will not come under his laws and statutes in this life. Those who disregard the requirements of God in this life would not respect His authority were they in heaven.

Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Human beings are forbidden to give to any other object the first place in their affections or their service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god.

Psalms 95:3 - For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Psalms 96:4 - For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.

Psalms 96:5 - For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

Anything that is made the subject of undue thought and admiration, absorbing the mind, is a god chosen before the Lord.

With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. When one is fully emptied of self, when every false god is cast out of the soul, the vacuum is filled by the inflowing of the Spirit of Christ.

When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love them as ourselves and only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially.

God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of his throne. He is a God of love, of pity, and tender compassion. Thus he is represented in his Son our Saviour. He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the Being whom we adore, and whose character we are seeking to imitate, we are worshiping the true God.