

RIGHT GOD, WRONG IMAGE

Exodus 20:4-6

1st Commandment: Tells us who we must worship.

2nd Commandment: Tells us who we shouldn't worship.

I. Man has a natural instinct to worship.

II. Two things prohibited:

A. The making of idols. (v. 4)

B. Bowing down and worshipping them. (v. 5)

1. Not forbidding Rembrandts or Michaelangelos.

2. Not forbidding things that cause us to remember Him.

III. Three things to note:

A. An idol is anything that you worship rather than God. (Mt. 6:24)

B. Images of God degrade our concept of Him.

1. "Big guy upstairs" version.

2. "Donald Trump" version.

3. "Vending machine in the sky" version.

4. "Let's Make A Deal" version.

Cf. Psalm 115:4-8, Isaiah 46:3-9

C. God's warning is extremely stiff.
(v. 5-6)

1. Punishment to the third or fourth generations.

2. Reward 1,000 generations.

How great are the consequences?

IV. Bottom line

Final analysis: Idolatry is really just a subtle form of self-worship.

It humanizes God while it deifies man.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. II Cor. 3:17-18

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