



No Images

4th in the “10 Commandments” Series

Exodus 20:4-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

February 6, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage we learn about the second of the Ten Commandments.

The Text:

Exodus 20:4-6

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

1. The second commandment forbids any images of God, especially for the purpose of worship.
2. The second commandment demands proper worship of God with our mind and body.

WCL 109: “The sins forbidden in the second commandment are ... the making [of] any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever.”

3. The second commandment shepherds us to see that Christ is the perfect image of God and thus the foundation and focus of our worship.

APP: What does obeying the second commandment look like?

- (1) Guard your minds.
- (2) Guard your worship.
- (2) Guard your lives.

Response

Lord, you have given us the image for worship – Jesus Christ! Help us properly to think, act, and worship you.

Sunday Text Questions for Exodus 20:4-6 Colossians 1:15-20 (“Ten Commandments” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: If you have watched a Jesus movie, how would you describe its biblical accuracy and ministerial benefit?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Why does God prohibit the making of any image of himself?
- 4) Based upon the end of v. 4, why does God also prohibit the making of images of any created things?
- 5) How do vv. 5-6 make clear that God is serious about his people obeying the second commandment?
- 6) If we are banned from making images of God, does that also include images of Jesus (pictures, movies, statues)?
- 7) Even if we say (and not all Christians do) that the incarnate nature of Jesus allows us to make images of him, how might pictures or movies go beyond or distort the Bible’s presentation of Jesus?
- 8) Read Colossians 1:15-20. How is Jesus the approved image of God, and what does that mean for helping direct the church’s worship of God?
- 9) Since the second commandment is about HOW we worship, what does this commandment teach us about the importance of proper worship to God?
- 10) Read the Westminster Larger Catechism Q/A #109 and discuss its implications for proper worship:
“The duties required in the second commandment are, the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his word; particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; the reading, preaching, and hearing of the word; the administration and receiving of the sacraments; church government and discipline; the ministry and maintenance thereof....”

Further study this week: Passages related to the second commandment: Genesis 1:26-27 (Mon); Matthew 22:15-22 (Tues); Colossians 1:15-20 (Wed); Colossians 2:9 (Thurs); Mark 9:2-8 (Fri).