

# The Second Commandment: Right God, Right Worship Exodus 20.4-7

74% of Americans admit they'll steal from those who won't miss it

64% will lie for convenience as long as no one is hurt

93% they alone decide moral issues, basing decisions on experience or whims

84% say they would break the rules of their own religion

81% have a violated a law they felt to be inappropriate James Patterson and Peter Kim

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20.4-7

1. Limitless God

2. Loving God

3. Legacy from God

## 1. Limitless God

a. Commandment > Some CONFUSION – What is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm?

MANY Beliefs Roman Catholics and Protestants CELEBRATE their UNITY

APOSTLE'S Creed – Doctrine of Trinity – NICENE Creed > AGREEMENT

Ten Commandments – NOT NUMBERED in BIBLE – Different List....

Roman Catholic	Reformation
1. I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other gods besides Me.	1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.	2. You shall not make for yourself an idol...
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.	3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God...
4. Honor your father and your mother.	4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy...
5. You shall not kill.	5. Honor your father and your mother...
6. You shall not commit adultery.	6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not steal.	7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.	9. You shall not give false testimony...
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.	10. You shall not covet...

REFORMED > Possible to WORSHIP RIGHT GOD in WRONG WAY

In the first commandment, worshiping a false God is forbidden. In the second commandment, worshiping the true God in a false manner is forbidden.

Thomas Watson

Example at VERY TIME 10 Commandments GIVEN > People cried...

"Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "*These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.*" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a *festival to the LORD*"

Exodus 32.1-5

NOT Changing Gods > LORD who Brought out of Egypt > SAME God  
AARON > IMPROVE Worship, QUELL Misbehavior, FOCUS Attention  
Seems SURPRISED Why Moses – AND GOD – are SO UPSET!!

b. Common > Person of Day would be UNUSUAL NOT have IDOL

Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your forefathers, including *Terah the father of Abraham* and Nahor, lived beyond the River and *worshipped other gods.*'

Joshua 24.2

Abe's Grandson JACOB Wife wanted BLESSING of IDOLS for Trip

When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods.

Genesis 31.19

400 YEARS in IDOLATROUS EGYPT – Israelites also KEPT IDOLS

2<sup>nd</sup> Com Rocked their World, PARADIGM Shift, Look to UNSEEN God ONLY

Few Yrs ago BEAUTIFUL KOREAN Park > Kazakh Man's World Rocked  
 Ministry Team Korean, Kazakh, Me / Toured Sorak Mountain > Buddhist Statue  
 Hundreds Koreans BOWING DOWN to GIANT BUDDAH > ALMSGIVING  
 KAZAKH – Raised Muslim – NO IDOLS – NEW Christian – SHOCKED!!

IDOLS > NOT ONLY Made by Hands – Created in Heads – Living in Hearts  
 NOT Only FORMS of Wood and Stone > TRAVEL Airwaves, Cyberspace

ANALYSIS of TV RELIGION > by NON-EVANGELICAL

...on television, God is a vague and subordinate character. Though His name is invoked repeatedly, the concreteness and persistence of the image of the preacher carries the clear message that it is he, not He, who must be worshipped. I do not mean to imply that the preacher wishes it to be so; only that the power of a close-up televised face, in color, makes idolatry a continual hazard. Television is, after all, a form of graven imagery far more alluring than a golden calf...Jimmy Swaggart plays better than God. For God exists only in our minds, whereas Swaggart is there to be seen, admired, adored  
 Neil Postman

OPINION can become IDOL > Opinion WRONG that Children SUFFER & DIE  
 GOD lets CHILDREN Suffer and Die, God is WRONG, UNFAIR, UNCARING  
 Cannot DEFINE God by OUR OPINIONS Ideas > Defined by Scripture Alone

LAST Sentence of APOSTLE JOHN'S FIRST LETTER...

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols. 1 John 5.21

c. Cooperation Some Believe Pictures / Images AID Worship of God = Aaron  
 Little boy busily drawing picture > Father: "What are you drawing?"  
 Boy: "A Picture of God!" > Father: "No one knows what God looks like"  
 Boy: "They will know when I get through with my picture."

King Jehu of Israel > Praised for ENDING WORSHIP of BAAL  
 Killed EVIL QUEEN Jezebel / Destroyed MINISTERS of BAAL  
 All in the NAME of the TRUE GOD of ISRAEL

So Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel. 2 Kings 10.28

For JEHU'S SAKE > Wish this was END of Life NARRATIVE, but....

However, he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit-the worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan.  
2 Kings 10.29

GOLDEN CALVES > Intended to REPRESENT God of Israel! In Bethel & Dan  
 BIBLICAL Religion > RELIGION of EAR not of the EYE

UNIQUENESS of GOD of the BIBLE > God who SPEAKS > Have His WORD

Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw *no form; there was only a voice*. He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets...Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape  
Deuteronomy 4.12-16

GOD Uses HIS VOICE --- NOT a VIDEO

*Hear, O Israel*, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you...*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.* Deuteronomy 6.3,4

Question # 98 - May not images be permitted in the churches as teaching aids for the unlearned?

A - No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God. He wants His people instructed by the living preaching of His Word. -- not by idols that cannot even talk.  
The Heidelberg Catechism, 1583

HIS VOICE > Power and Life > MY VOICE – Sermon – DULL and BORING  
 After Long, Dry Sermon > Minister Announced meeting w/ Church Board

1<sup>st</sup> to Arrive was Stranger > Minister 'Sorry this is mtg of Church Board'

**"I know - if there is anyone here more bored than I am, I'd like to meet him."**

d. Corruption > Our AIDS to Worship become BARRIERS to Worship

GRUMBLING Israelites were BITTEN by POISONOUS SNAKES

The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.  
Numbers 21.8-9

BRONZE SERPENT Lifted UP // Cross of Jesus // Symbol of Life thru Death

Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign...He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD...He broke into pieces *the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it.* (It was called Nehushtan.) Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. 2 Kings 18.1-5

GOOD SYMBOL God Designed & Decreed > Made into an IDOL by Faithless  
Christian Symbols > SAME Danger > So EASY to make GOD-SUBSTITUTE

We cannot pretend that we are not idolators simply because we refrain from setting up a statue in the front of the church. We can just as much be idolators if we place the pastor on a highly raised platform and treat him as the center of worship.  
Michael Horton

NATIONAL CORRUPTION > Image of God, Greatness in Land ITS PEOPLE  
PROUD RULERS > Make MONUMENTS – To Self, State – Neglect PEOPLE

For of this you can be sure: No *immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater* - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.  
Ephesians 5.5

e. Confinement > Human Attempt to CONTAIN God > UNCONTAINABLE

To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to?  
Isaiah 40.18

GOD is NOT AGAINST > ART, BEAUTY, or ARTISANS

The LORD said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. Exodus 31.1-5

Look at the CREATION > Nothing MORE ARTISTIC and MAGNIFICENT!

TEMPLE > God ORDERED it to BE BEAUTIFUL and ARTISTIC

Solomon built the temple and completed it. He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, paneling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling... inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; no stone was to be seen. 1 Kings 6.14-18

REMBRANDT Shaped Reformation with Art > All of Life Beautiful & Spiritual

SOLOMON Never TRIED to CAPTURE God INSIDE the Box of TEMPLE

But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! 1 Kings 8.27

God is SPIRIT > Uncontainable, Unimaginable, Unlimitable

No Limit to His Plan - Sovereign

No Limit to His Power - Omnipotent

No Limit to His Wisdom - Omniscient

No Limit in Time - Eternal

No Limit to His Presence - Omnipresent

No image constructed by human hands could ever accurately represent the totality, the transcendency, and the majesty of God... To attempt to do so would be like asking a scholar to explain the history of the world in one sentence... or a musician to play Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with a referee's whistle

Bill Hybels

Poor working Woman - Poster beautiful Gk. Isle Santorini HUNG on WALL

Saved MANY Years for vacation there

Flight to Athens - Tour Group - Parthenon, Acropolis SHE STAYED at HOTEL

"I came to see the island of Santorini"

Boat Cruise - Stopped at several Gk. Isles - Mediterranean

Beaches, harbors, villages > NEVER GOT OFF SHIP

Arr. Santorini at Night - So Excited - Hardly Slept

Terrible Storm - across Aegean Sea – Santorini Island SOCKED IN FOG

Focus on ONE IMAGE - MISS EVERYTHING ELSE

## 2. Loving God

### a. Relationship > RELATIONSHIP, NOT JUST RULES

vs. 5,6 those who hate me...those who love me / 2 OPTIONS > 2 Relationships

He will allow you to chase empty idols and false images for the rest of your life if you so desire. He will let you have your own way. But you'll have to walk right by His open arms to do it. Tom Keener

CHOICE of CONTROL > IDOLS > STEAL our Freedom

Made for Master > SHOCK to MEN: WIVES known Long Time > REMOTE

Only REAL Freedom > RIGHT to Choose what Controls Us

"I am free to take a drink" > Drink takes the person.

"I'm free to do drugs." > Soon the drugs DO them.

"I'm free to Smoke Cigarettes" > Smokes Suck Life out of Them

Slaves to Work or Idleness, Love or Lust, Ambition or Power

Your God > Something you Surrender your Life To

Freedom > Choosing YOUR MAKER as YOUR MASTER > Free-est

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1.21

The air we breathe and the beat of our hearts are in His hands. He is God!

Resist that and we destroy ourselves. Accept it and we find freedom.

Truck > Free to Roll Far and Long if Stays on Highway

Train > Free and Powerful unless it Jumps the Tracks

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.  
Deuteronomy 28.1

## b. Regulative Principle

vs. 4,5 You shall not make for yourself an idol...You shall not bow down to them or worship them

Roman Catholic / Orthodox	Reformation
We may worship in any way that God does not forbid.	We may only worship in the way God commands in Scripture.

NOT FORBID > Incense, Robes, Stained Glass, Confession Booths, Ceremonies

COMMANDS > Prayer, Singing, Giving, Encouraging, Preaching, Sacraments

Freedom of Religion: CIVIL Right of MAN & SPIRITUAL Right of GOD

CIVIL > Man should be Free to Worship God any Way they Want

SPIRITUAL Right of GOD > NOT Accept ALL WAYS of Worship

God given CHURCH with HOLY SPIRIT and HOLY SCRIPTURES

Because God does not speak to us every day from the heavens, there are only the Scriptures, in which he has willed that his truth should be published and made known...they came down from heaven, as though we heard God speaking from his own mouth. John Calvin

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4.24

## c. Returned > LOVE Given to be RETURNED and NOT SPURNED

v. 5 for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God > LOYAL, DEVOTED LOVE

Not Jealous LIKE US > Envious, Resentful or Suspicious

Jealous for Honor of His Name and Loyalty of His People

SOCIETY > Open Minded, Accepting, Tolerant > Accept Spouse's Infidelity?

NORMAL to be ANGRY, HURT, OFFENDED by UNFAITHFUL SPOUSE

Covenant with Israel > Idolatry is SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

Any image we would make of God will always misrepresent Him and make Him to be something other than He really is. The use of an image in worship can only lower our view of God and His glory. J.I. Packer

Israel began to follow foreign gods, and Jehovah was very angry; He was jealous of his people. They sacrificed to heathen gods, to new gods never before worshiped. They spurned the Rock who had made them, forgetting it was God who had given them birth. Deuteronomy 32.16-18 TLB

### 3. Legacy from God

#### a. Curse of Idols

v. 5 punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me

Idolatry > Hurts our children and their children and even their children.

Way we Worship > Impact on LEGACY > Shape your FAMILY HISTORY

Effects of our Sin > Projected upon them / Affected by our Decisions

CHASING False gods – Materialism – Substitutes > Children Follow PATH

King Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and *entered the temple of the LORD* to burn incense on the altar of incense...While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead.

2 Chronicles 26.16,19

KING not ALLOWED to USURP Role of PRIEST > Punished by God

Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king...He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done, but unlike him *he did not enter the temple of the LORD.* 2 Chronicles 27.1-2

#### GRANDSON Ahaz

King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the LORD...Ahaz gathered together the furnishings from the temple of God and took them away. He shut the doors of the LORD's temple and set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem. 2 Chronicles 28.22-24

Uzziah Afflicted in Temple / Joham Afraid of Temple / Ahaz Closed Temple

#### FINAL DESTINY – Not Determined by our FAMILY but OUR FAITH

The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him. Ezekiel 18.20

#### IMMORAL RESULTS of FALSE WORSHIP Seen in Making GOLDEN CALF

So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. *Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.* Exodus 32.6

LIMITED GOD > LIMIT to OBEDIENCE > Not Awesome, Fearful God

TAME, DOMESTICATED god > Made with OWN HANDS > WE Master him

Do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol Deuteronomy 4.16

Their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk;nor can they utter a sound with their throats. *Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.* Psalm 115.4-8

Become like False Image we Pursue > Worship Self > Selfish

Idolize Wealth > like Scrooge > Value \$ above Anything, even Loved Ones

Bow Down at Altar of Physical Beauty > Shallow People > Skin Deep

God wants us to become like Him > Not False, Empty Images

*...when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3.2*

b. Blessing of True God > Far Exceeds the Limits of the Curse

v. 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments

OPPORTUNITY to MAKE NEW BEGINNING in Jesus > NEW CREATION

PROMISE More Powerful than CURSE > EXTENDS FOREVER in Christ

GOD Promised FATHER ABRAHAM

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. Genesis 17.7

PRIVILEGE and RESPONSIBILITY > esp for Mom's and Dad's > LEGACY?

A man who bows before God in genuine worship and serves him with true praise – will see the blessing of God rest on his household forever. What kind of life are you leading? What kind of worship are you giving? What kind of legacy will you leave? Philip Graham Ryken

c. Image in Christ > CLEAREST Image of God Revealed in Christ

PAGAN IDOLS > Blind, Dumb, Unmoved, and Unmovable

JESUS > God in Human Flesh > Sees, Speaks, Walks, even WEEPS over Us

Power of Jesus > Grant SIGHT, SPEECH, MOBILITY, Dry OUR TEARS

Two first-grade buddies were playing when one said to the other, "I had a good time in Vacation Bible School this morning. Why don't you go with me tomorrow." His friend responded by asking, "What's a Vacation Bible School? The little boy replied, "We have it at church. We play games, sing, and learn about Jesus Christ. His friend asked, "Who is Jesus Christ?" And then, in wisdom surely born of the spirit of God the six year old answered, **"Jesus Christ is the best picture of God that has ever been took."**

Jesus on Cross > See Human Weakness but Hides Divine STRENGTH, Alive!  
 Display CROSS? Resurrection? Cradle? Miracles on Earth? Glory in Heaven?  
 PICTURES and IMAGES > Place LIMITS on GOD who is UNLIMITABLE

Why NO CRUCIFIX? CROSS is our MESSAGE > Clear WORDS of Scripture  
 Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.  
 Galatians 3.1

Jesus DID NOT Suffer & Die in CENTRAL TURKEY > Seen in Paul's  
 Preaching

JESUS in PICTURE? Blond? Black? Bearded? Big? Beautiful? NOT  
 CERTAIN?

FOUR GOSPELS > Many Details of Ministry > No Info on LOOKS

Jesus: Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. John 14.9

He is the image of the invisible God Colossians 1.15

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being  
 Hebrews 1.3

CHRISTIANS in USA > Much NOISE and ENERGY > to Hang 10 Commands  
 In OUR COURTROOMS – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – STATE HOUSES

William Carey believed that God's image was in man, not in idols; therefore, it  
 was oppressed humanity – not idols – that ought to be served. Vishal Mangalwadi

MAY We EXERT MORE ENERGY to Be VISIBLE SIGNPOSTS of God

WE ARE Also in IMAGE of GOD > IMAGE RENEWED in Christ

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by  
 everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry,  
 written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone  
 but on tablets of human hearts. 2 Corinthians 3.2-3 \*\*\*\*\*