

“The Right God, The Right Way”

Exodus 20:4-6

What does the second commandment forbid? The first commandment tells us *who* to worship, the second commandment tells us *how* to worship; namely, without the aid of any physical representations of God.

How do we break this commandment? We break this command when we rely upon images to aid us in worship rather than knowing God rightly through the Scriptures. We also break this commandment when we make a new image of God in our *minds*. We imagine God to be whatever we want and thereby create an idol.

Why does God make this commandment? Verse 5 teaches us that God forbids the use of images in His worship because he is a *jealous* God. This is not a selfish coveting after something that belongs to someone else but a rightful zeal for the love of those who belong to him. Just as a faithful husband could not stand to see his wife in the arms of another man, so God will not share us with any other lovers. Secondly, God forbids the use of man-made images because only He can provide a true image of himself, which he has done in Jesus Christ who is the “image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15).

How do we obey this commandment as Christians? We must know and worship God as he truly is by looking into the eyes of Jesus on the pages of Scripture. “Whoever has seen me (Jesus) has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

Questions for Discussion:

1. In your own words, what is God like?
2. Why cannot human imagination adequately picture God?
3. What do we learn about the true God by observing Jesus in Luke 13?
4. How are you most tempted to break the second commandment?