



- To Reprove Us!
- To Convict Us!
- And - To Convince Us:

### 1. *Of Our Failure!*

- Our Failure To Obey!
- You See - We Are Commanded By God:
  - To “Have No Other Gods Before Me” - Because:
    - There Is Only One True God!
    - And He Alone:
      - Is Worthy Of Our Honor!
  - To Honor:
    - His Wonder - As God!
    - As Well As:
      - His Will, His Word:
        - And His Way!
  - But - What Have We Done?
    - Again - Isaiah 53:6:
      - “We Have Turned Every One To His Own Way!”
  - And - We Have Failed:
    - To Honor Him:
      - The Way He Deserves - And:
        - The Way He Demands!
    - “Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods Before Me!”
      - Wasn’t This The Essence:
        - Of The Very First Sin Committed:
          - By Our Earliest Parents - Adam And Eve?
  - Let’s Look Back:
    - At Their Account:
      - In Genesis 3:1-7 - “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? / And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: / But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. / And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: / For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. / And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. / And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons!”
        - When Adam & Eve Sinned:
          - They Failed To Honor The One True God As The God & As Their God!
          - They Failed:
  - To Honor The Word Of God!
    - Both The Devil & Adam & Eve:
      - Knew Full Well What God Said:
        - About The Fruit Of The Trees In The Garden! 2:16-17 - “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: / But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die!”
    - But - When The Serpent Questioned God’s Word:
      - Both Eve And Then Adam:
        - Did So As Well! They Questioned! They Doubted!
          - 3:1 - “Yea, Hath God Said?”
        - And Then - They Disobeyed God’s Word And Dishonored God Himself!
          - They Also Failed:
  - To Honor The Will Of God!
    - Why Did God Forbid Them To Eat Of The Fruit:
      - Of *That* Tree?

- Was There Something Magical In It:
  - As The “Tree Of The Knowledge Of Good And Evil?”
  - Most Likely - Not!
- God Was Testing His Creation!
  - To See If They Would:
    - Follow After **His** Will:
    - And - Not Their **Own!**
- But - Once Again:
  - They Failed!
    - And So Do We!
      - Any-Time And Every-Time:
        - We Turn To Our “Own Way!”
- They Also Failed:
  - To Honor The Wonder Of God!
    - One Of The Ways The Devil:
      - Tempted Adam & Eve:
        - Was To Appeal To Wonder Of God!
      - In Genesis 3:5 - He Said:
        - “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil!”
    - And - When They Heard These Words:
      - It Was Not Enough:
        - For Them - To Let God Be God:
          - And - Be Content With His Wonderful Wisdom & Ways!
    - No - They Wanted To Be Gods:
      - Themselves!
        - To Know:
          - What God Knew!
        - And - To Be:
          - What God Was!
    - And So - They Failed!
      - They Failed To Honor God:
        - In All Of These Ways!
  - But - It Was **After** Adam & Eve Sinned:
    - That God Gave Us The First Commandment!
      - Why? Because We **Still** Fail:
        - To Honor God The Way We Should!
    - If There Was No Fall:
      - There In The Garden - And:
        - If There Was No Failure:
          - In Our Lives:
            - There Would Not Have Been A Need For This Commandment!
  - And So - Through This Command:
    - God Is Holding Up A Mirror:
      - To Your Heart & To My Heart:
        - So We Can See What It Really Looks Like!
    - We Are All Guilty:
      - Of Failing:
        - To Honor God!
    - And - We All Need:
      - To Seek God’s Forgiveness:
        - That Can Be Only Found:
          - In The Gospel!
        - In Jesus - You Can Receive:
          - Forgiveness & Freedom:
            - From Breaking God’s Commandment!

\* God Also Uses This Command - To Reprove & Convict Us:

## 2. *Of Our Foolishness!*

- We Are Also Commanded By God:
  - To “Have No Other Gods Before Me” - Because:
    - There **Are** No Other Gods!
  - But - What Do We Do?
    - We Set Up Other Gods:
      - “Before” Him!
      - And In Opposition To Him!
  - But What Are These:
    - “Other Gods”?
      - A God Is Someone Or Something You Set Up As The Supreme Deity In Your Life!
      - And Worthy Of Your Supplication, Submission, And Service!
  - A Heart Idol:
    - Is No Less An Idol:
      - Than One Made Out Of:
        - Wood Or Stone!
    - And - As Martin Luther Once Said:
      - “My Heart Must Not Build Upon Anything Or Trust In Any Other Thing, Be It Wealth, Prestige, Wisdom, Might, Piety, Or Anything Else!”
      - Because - Doing So:
        - Makes These **All** Idols To You!
  - So - Tonight - What “Other Gods” Do You Have:
    - In Your Heart?
      - The Temptations Abound! So:
        - Where Does Your Love & Trust:
          - Lie? In:
- The God Of Persons?
  - As Paul Describes For Us:
    - In 2 Timothy 3:1-2 - “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. / For men shall be lovers of their own selves!”
  - Of Course - This Is:
    - The Primary God:
      - Of Our Lives - Because:
        - Even When Someone Made An Image & And An Image:
          - To Worship - They Were Often Made After The Image Of Man!
  - Are You Your Own God?
    - If & When You Go Your “Own Way” - Then:
      - You Are - Whether You Like:
        - To Admit To It Or Not!
        - Or - What About:
- The God Of Possessions?
  - In 2 Timothy 3:2 - The Very Next Word We Come To:
    - Is “Covetous!”
      - This Is The Greedy Desire:
        - For What Other People Have!
  - This Is Also Found In:
    - The Tenth Commandment:
      - “Thou Shalt Not Covet!”
      - But What Is Covetousness?
  - It Is Just Another Form:
    - Of Idolatry!
      - As Paul Tells Us In Ephesians 5:5 - “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God!”
  - Are You Living:
    - Just For The Possessions:
      - That This Life Has To Offer?
        - Then - Possessions Are Your God! Whether Those Possessions Belong To You

Or To Others!

- They Are Your God!

- And - It Is Foolishness:
  - To Live For Something:
    - That Will Not Last!
- Remember The Words Of Jesus:
  - In Matthew 6:19-21 - "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: / But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: / For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!"
    - Or - What About:
- The God Of Pleasure?
  - In 2 Timothy 3:3-4 - Paul Continues:
    - "Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, / Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God!"
  - When You Love Pleasurable Things:
    - For The Way They Make You Feel:
      - More Than God:
        - Then - They Become Another God To You!
  - There Are Certain Natural Appetites:
    - That God Has Given To Us:
      - As Human Beings - That Can Be:
        - Quite Pleasurable And Enjoyable!
    - Like The Appetites:
      - For Food And For Leisure And For Companionship And For Love!
        - And - In & Of Themselves - These Appetites Are Not Sinful!
    - After All:
      - In 1 Timothy 6:17 - We Are Told That:
        - The "Living God" Is The One "Who Giveth Us Richly All Things To Enjoy!"
  - But - When You Enjoy Those Pleasures:
    - So Much - That They Lead You:
      - Outside Of The Boundaries:
        - God Has Set For Them:
          - Then Your Appetites & Pleasures Become Your God!
  - Remember That Even Those Pleasures:
    - Are Passing! And So:
      - As The Apostle John Tells Us - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. / For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. / And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever!" (1 John 2:15-16)
        - Or - What About:
- The God Of Perception?
  - Even When You **Think** You Are:
    - Honoring God - But Perceive Him:
      - In Other Ways:
        - Than The Way He Truly Is:
          - You Have Made Him Into Another God!
  - Remember When:
    - The Children Of Israel Were At The Foot Of Mount Sinai - Waiting For Moses:
      - To Come Down With God's Law?
        - The Very Same Ten Commandments That We Are Looking At!
  - What Did They Do?
    - Exodus 32:1-8 - "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. / 2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. / 3 And all the people brake off the

- golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. / 4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf; and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. / 5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. / 6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. / 7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: / 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt!”
- Aaron & The People:
    - Thought They Could Make God:
      - Into An Image:
        - That Was Visible To Them & In A Form That Was More Familiar To Them! A Golden Calf!
    - And Then - They Claimed:
      - That This Image:
        - Was God! And - Was The Lord!
        - But - In Reality - It Was Another God Of Their Own Making!
  - And When We Think Of God:
    - In Ways That He Is **Not**:
      - It Is - In Reality:
        - Another God We Have Made!
        - And - Another God We Worship!
    - But - How Do We Do This?
      - When We De-Emphasize:
        - Any Of His Glory & His Attributes:
          - As God! Or:
      - When We Add Something:
        - To His Nature:
          - That He Has Not Revealed:
            - To Us!
  - If Any Of These Things:
    - Take The Place Of - Or:
      - Get In The Way Of:
        - God - And:
          - His Wonder, His Will, His Word, His Wisdom, And His Worship:
            - Then - We Are Fools!
    - And - We Are Sinning Against God:
      - And His Command!
        - And - In Doing So:
          - **We** Are The Ones Missing Out & Losing Out On Him!
    - When Adam & Eve Sinned:
      - They - “Hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden!”
        - But - Were They Really Hidden?
          - No! Of Course Not!
          - But They Changed The Truth Of God Into A Lie!
      - And They Thought:
        - They Could Actually Hide:
          - From The Omnipresent Eyes:
            - Of God!

## Conclusion:

1. This Is Always What Happens:
  - When You Have “Other Gods Before” God!
    - You Will Forget:
      - Who The True God Is:
        - And - What He Is Like!

2. Now - Is This Something:
  - That Is Still Possible:
    - For Us? Even As:
      - Christians & Bible Believers?
      - Unfortunately - I'm Afraid So!
  - We See This Taking Place:
    - Once Again - In The Children Of Israel:
      - In 2 Kings 17:33 - Where We Are Told That:
        - "They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence!"
      - "They Feared The Lord, And Served Their Own Gods!"
        - What A Sad Statement!
          - Of Course, Their Fear Of God Was A False Fear!
            - Because - As Jesus Would Later Say - "No Man Can Serve Two Masters!" (Matthew 6:24)
3. But - Is This What Is Going On:
  - In Your Life?
    - Is There Someone Or Something Else:
      - That Is A Rival To God:
        - On The Throne Of Your Heart?
          - Any Other Person?
          - Any Other Possession?
          - Any Other Pleasure?
          - Or - Any Other Perception Of God?
4. This Is Why God Continues:
  - To Confront Us & Reprove Us:
    - With The First Commandment:
      - For Our Tendency To Sin:
        - In This Way!
          - "Thou shalt have no other gods before me!" (Exodus 20:3)
    - And - This Is Why:
      - You Need To Return:
        - To The Lord Our God:
          - Daily & Even Moment By Moment!
          - And Love Him Supremely!
            - With All Of Your Heart, Mind, Soul, And Strength!
    - So - Let Us Close With The Same Words:
      - The Apostle Paul Wrote To The Corinthian Church:
        - In 1 Corinthians 10:4:
          - "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry!"

- \* Are You Honoring God As God In Your Life?
- \* Is There Something Or Someone That Is Taking God's Place In Your Heart?
- \* By God's Grace & With His Help:
  - Will You Flee From All Forms Of Idolatry Beginning Tonight?

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**Stephen Elmer, Pastor**  
**4245 North 200 West**  
**Greenfield, Indiana 46140**  
**317-326-2362**  
[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)  
[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)  
[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)