

Exodus
From Slavery to Sonship
The First Commandment
Exodus 20:3 Part 32

The First Commandment: The Protection of True Theology. v.3

I. The Command Stated Negatively: You Shall Have No Other Gods.

A. The historical context for this command.

B. The over-arching importance of this commandment.

“The first of the Ten Commandments is basic to the nine that follow it and to the relationship the Decalogue is designed to insure. It sets forth an expectation of absolute priority, a first and fundamental requirement of those who desire to enter into the covenant relationship with Yahweh.” Durham

C. Allegiances to any other gods are forbidden. ‘before my face’ Matt.4:10

II. The Command’s Absolute Assertion: Monotheism vs. Polytheism

Cf. Psa.115:3-8; Isa.44:6,8; 1 Cor.8:4-6

III. The Command’s Positive Inference: You Shall Love Yahweh Alone.

A. The personal nature of the covenant.

Cf. Gen.17:7; Ex.6:7; Deut.6:4,5; 7:7,8; Jer.11:4; Am.3:2

“Note how God deals with this question of dividing allegiance between Himself and ‘other gods’. He puts it to Israel as an issue, not of theology, but of loyalty; a matter not of the mind simply, but of the heart.” J.I. Packer

B. The sordid history of spiritual adultery and stubborn love.

Cf. Jer.2:1-13; 3:6ff; 31:31-34; 32:3,4; Ez.16:155ff.; Hos.2:13

IV. The Command’s Reaffirmation for New Covenant Believers.

A. The gospel secures union and communion with God through Christ.

Cf. Matt.6:24; 22:37-38; Jn.17:3; 1 Jn.4:19

“Now, if you are a Christian, you know that you, too, are being claimed in the same way. God did not spare His Son, but delivered Him up for you; Christ loved you, and gave Himself for you, to save you out of the spiritual Egypt of bondage to sin and Satan. The first commandment in its positive form is put to you by Christ Himself--‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment’ (Matt.22:37f.). The claim rests on the right of both creation and redemption, and it cannot be evaded.” Packer

B. Idolatry is closer than we think. Cf. Col.2:18; Ja.4:4; 1 Jn. 5:20,21

“An idol is anything or anyone that captures our hearts, minds and affections more than God.”
Brad Bigney, Gospel Treason, p.24