

The 2nd Commandment

Exodus 20:4-6

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 35

June 1, 2014

Main Point:

Because your God is jealous for your obedience, represent and worship Him rightly!

1. Contrary to popular belief, the 2nd Commandment is relevant for you today.

2. The 2nd Commandment regulates how you *represent* God.

3. The 2nd Commandment regulates how you *worship* God.

4. Because your God is jealous for your obedience, represent and worship Him rightly!

HC 96 Q. What is God's will for us in the Second Commandment? A. That we in no way make any image of God nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded in His Word.

HC 97 Q. May we then not make any image at all? A. God can not and may not be visibly portrayed in any way. Although creatures may be portrayed, yet God forbids making or having such images if one's intention is to worship them or to serve God through them.

HC 98 Q. But 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.

Exodus 32:4-5 ⁴ And he received *the gold* from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵ So when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD." (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 4:15-16a ¹⁵ "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, ¹⁶ "lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure ... (NKJV)

Revelation 4:3-6a ³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald ... ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices ... ⁶ Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal ... (NKJV)

Romans 10:17 ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (NKJV)

Philip Ryken "The first commandment has to do with worshiping the right God ... The second commandment has to do with worshiping the right God in the right way."

Wilhelmus à Brakel "Each master wants to be served according to his dictates. It is neither a matter of indifference to God as to how we serve Him, nor ought we to be of the opinion that He will be pleased just so long as He is served, even if it is in a manner which is acceptable to us. No, He wishes to be served in a manner pleasing to Him and which He has prescribed to us."

Philip Ryken "*How* we worship matters nearly as much to God as *whom* we worship. We may not worship him any way we like, but only the way that he has commanded."

Philip Ryken "A holy jealousy is one that guards someone's rightful possession."