

## The Ten Commandments: Commandment #2

Serendipity Class / January 31, 1999

Opening Prayer: Dear Lord, open our minds and our hearts to the truth of Your word, that we may see You for who You are — the Almighty God, creator of Heaven and earth. As we study Your sacred commandments, let us move toward a new understanding of Your Greatness and Your Holiness. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Scripture: "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 20:4-6)

Small group discussion topics:

1. What is *idolatry*?
2. What are some of the *defining characteristics* of God?
3. Why is idolatry *strictly* forbidden?
4. What are some of the *consequences* of idolatry?

How you can begin to make God the *top priority* in your life:

1. Trust in God with your *whole heart*  
*John 14:1-4*
2. Worship and praise His holy name *in all circumstances*  
*Philippians 4:12-13*
3. Pray by *ACTS* — Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication  
*Philippians 4:4-7*
4. Give yourself in service to others  
*Romans 12:4-8*
5. Study His Word  
*2 Timothy 3:14-17; 4:3-5*
6. Obey His commandments  
*John 14:23-27*
7. Stand strong in your faith!  
*Ephesians 6:10-18*

Closing Scripture: So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:31-33)

Closing Prayer: Lord, help us each and every day to put You first in everything we do, so that our treasure will be stored up in the eternal riches of Heaven, and not in the temporary things of this world. Help us to put our trust in You for everything we need, because You know what we need before we ask for it. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

# WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE  
DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD?

# WHY IS IDOLATRY STRICTLY FORBIDDEN?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE  
CONSEQUENCES OF IDOLATRY?

## Scriptures Related to Idolatry:

Exodus	20:4-6 (the second commandment) 32:1-10 (Aaron and the Golden Calf) 34:10-17 (renewing the covenant promise)
Numbers	25:1-5 (Moab seduces Israel) 33:50-56 (instructions for entering Canaan)
Deuteronomy	4:15-31 (warning against falling into idolatry) 7:1-6 (instructions to show no mercy when taking Canaan) 8:19-20 (another warning against turning to idolatry) 13, 16:21-17:7 (purging idolaters from among the people) 27:15 (idolaters are cursed)
Judges	2:10-15 (God punishes Israel for their idolatry) 16:23-30 (death of Samson)
1 Samuel	5:1-8 (the Ark is placed beneath the Philistine god Dagon) 15:17-26 (Saul rejected as king for his disobedience to God)
1 Kings	18:16-40 (confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal)
Psalms	97 (a psalm of praise) 115 (another psalm of praise)
Isaiah	40:18-26 (comparison of God to an idol) 44:12-20 (use of a tree for firewood and idolatry)
Jeremiah	19:1-13 (prophecy of the destruction of Topheth)
Acts	17:29-31 (God no longer overlooks ignorance) 19:23-31 (Ephesian craftsmen are afraid of losing business because of Paul's teachings)
Romans	1:18-32 (God's wrath against idolaters)
1 Corinthians	5:9-11 (stay away from immoral people) 6:9-11 (the wicked will not inherit the kingdom) 8:4-6 (there is only one God and one Lord) 10:14-22 (warnings against mixing the Lord's supper with that of idols)
Galatians	5:19-21 (acts of the sinful nature)
Ephesians	5:3-7 (sinful acts are acts of idolatry)
Colossians	3:5-10 (putting to death the sinful nature)
1 Peter	4:1-6 (living for God rather than evil desires)
1 John	5:21 (warning against idolatry)

## Scriptures Related to the Character of God:

Exodus	3:13-15 (Moses wants to know God's name)
Numbers	23:19-20 (Balaam's message to Balak)
Joshua	1:8-9 (God's instruction to Joshua)
2 Kings	6:14-17 (Elisha is surrounded by God's host)
Psalms	8 (the majesty of God) 19 (the heavens declare the glory of God) 23 (the Shepherd provides for His sheep) 33 (prayer of praise) 86:1-13 (prayer of supplication) 93 (prayer of adoration) 139 (God is everywhere)
Job	38-41 (God questions Job to destroy his pride)
Ezekiel	37:1-10 (vision of Ezekiel in the valley of bones)
John	4:20-24 (God must be worshiped in spirit and truth)
Acts	17:24-28 (God does not live in physical temples)
Romans	4:17 (God is the source of all being)
Revelation	1:8 (Alpha and Omega) 1:12-18 (Paul's vision of Christ)