

True Devotion to Yahweh in Christ Alone

“You shall not make for yourself a *carved image* (idol), or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

1. God Prohibits All False Worship.

2. Yahweh Rightly Demands All True Worship.

3. Jesus Is the Image of the Invisible God.

CONCLUSION: Yahweh is the only proper recipient of worship. He prohibits all false worship and demands all true worship. Yet, as Calvin observed, our hearts are factories busy producing idols. We need to fix our gaze upon Christ, the only image of the invisible God, as He truly is, so that we have no room left for false gods or the improper worship of the true God.

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 108. What are the *duties required* in the second commandment?

A. The duties required in the second commandment are,

- (1) the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his Word;
- (2) particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; the reading, preaching, and hearing of the Word;
- (3) the administration and receiving of the sacraments;
- (4) church government and discipline;
- (5) the ministry and maintenance thereof;
- (6) religious fasting;
- (7) swearing by the name of God, and vowing unto him: as also the disapproving, detesting, opposing, all false worship;
- (8) and, according to each one's place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry.

Q. 109. What are the *sins forbidden* in the second commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the second commandment are,

- (1) all devising, counselling, commanding, using, and anywise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself;
- (2) tolerating a false religion;
- (3) the making any representation of God, of all, or of any of the three Persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever;
- (4) all worshiping of it, or God in it or by it;
- (5) the making of any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them;
- (6) all superstitious devices, corrupting the worship of God, adding to it, or taking from it, whether invented and taken up of ourselves, or received by tradition from others, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretense whatsoever;
- (7) simony;
- (8) sacrilege;
- (9) all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed.