

The 10 Commandments: No Other Gods

Reflect

1. If someone completely unfamiliar with our culture were to come to your home and spend a week with you, what would they say is the most important thing to you?
2. Should God be first in our lives? Why?
3. Why is idolatry, worshiping false gods, such a problem?

Read Your Bible

- Deuteronomy 5:7-10
- Matthew 19:16-26

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What are some of the "false gods" we worship in our world today?
2. When you read these texts, what do you see that is important?
3. What was the young man missing? Was his idol his wealth, or something deeper?
4. Why does God want to be first in our lives? Why does that matter?
5. What might be some idols in your life?
6. Can we (idolatry of self) become our own idol?
7. How do you put God first in all things?
8. How does Jesus break our idols?

Conclusion

Martin Luther, the reformer, felt that all the commandments could fall under the first commandment. Anything we place before God will become a false god, or idol, in our lives. Even good things can get in the way of a right relationship with God. In the Small Catechism he wrote this commandment means, "We are to fear, love, and trust God above anything else." The calling is to place God first in all things. In a "me first" world it is easy to believe that this life is all about us and make an idol out of ourselves and the many things in our lives. Like the rich young man who had everything, it is difficult to sometimes see that our affluence makes us put ourselves in the center, not God. Only the cross can free us from this ego trap and restore us into a right relationship with God.

Pray

Lord Jesus, smash the false idols in our lives. Give us a new heart, one that beats solely and completely for you. Help us not be blinded and distracted by all the false promises and flashy stuff of this world. If we have put ourselves on the throne, knock us off our seat! Thank you for your forgiveness and mercy. We love you. In Jesus' name. Amen!