
SERMON NOTES July 11, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Exodus 20:4-6 Our Image of God Pastor Mike

I. American _____ and forms of _____

The 1st Commandment prohibits _____

The 2nd Commandment prohibits _____

Idolatry isn't just believing _____ but also believing _____

II. Ways that we can make God _____

a. Any _____ of God

b. An image shaped _____

III. Our natural response to God's _____

a. We make God into an image of _____

b. The sin of the _____

IV. _____ images of God

V. _____ to the temptation of images

Closing challenge;

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. The 2nd commandment is not just a restatement of the 1st, but is a command to not worship God in false ways, or to think thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him. Even when this command is properly understood, very few people think they struggle with it.
 - a. Do you think that keeping this commandment is a big problem in our culture? In our churches?
 - b. Why do you think that almost nobody would say they struggle with this issue?
2. The people of Old Testament Israel lived in a time and culture where other people's gods were all portrayed as images that people could see and were worshipped in ways that stressed personal gratification. The sin of the golden calf in Exodus 32 was driven by Israel's desire to make God more like everyone else's gods.
 - a. In what ways does our culture remake God? What are the images we remake God into?
 - b. In what ways has the modern American church fallen into this same error, by adopting the values and beliefs of the culture, and then redefining God to fit that image?
 - c. In what ways might you be guilty of falling into this trap? How are you tempted to redefine God to conform to the image of God portrayed by our culture?
3. Almost everyone is comfortable with their own view of God and assume that it is accurate. Therefore, we see no need to reevaluate our view of God or to reconsider what sources are really at the core of that view.
 - a. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
 - b. Most of us can see others who clearly believe wrong things about God, and we see that they are almost always blind to their own errors. If parts of our beliefs about God are wrong, do you think we would be able to see it? If so, how?
 - c. If you can acknowledge that there is at least a chance that you might struggle with the 2nd command, what beliefs about God or how you worship Him do you need to reevaluate to see if they might have roots in sources other than the Bible.
4. Among those in our culture who claim to believe in God, to what degree do you think their beliefs about God are truly rooted in God's self-revelation in the Bible, or to what degree are they rooted in cultural values (what our culture says is right and wrong), personal values (what kind of God we would like to have), or in something else?
 - a. In your own life to what degree do you think your beliefs about God are rooted in God's self-revelation in the Bible, and to what degree might they be rooted something else?
 - b. Can you think of a time when your beliefs about God, and/or your personal values were challenged by Biblical teaching that seemed to differ from those beliefs/view? Was your initial response to try and reinterpret the Bible or to allow the Bible to reshape your views? How did you ultimately resolve that conflict?
5. If the vital thing in the 2nd commandment is a right belief in God which is rooted solely in God's self-revelation as given in the Bible, to what degree are you committed to and do you engage in any kind of regular study of the character of God? What steps can you take to grow in your understanding of the true character and nature of God?