

“No Other Gods” Exodus 20:1-3

INTRODUCTION

- The 10 C’s are pro-life—a blueprint for a full, free, and flourishing life. Ps 1:1-6; Ps 16:4
- The 10 C’s are pro-love—they encapsulate loving God & others. Mt 22:35-40; Mk 12:28f; Lk 10:25f
- The 10 C’s are absolute—God’s Law is unbending.
- The 10 C’s have both *requirements* and *prohibitions*. (I.e., ‘Do not murder’ implies ‘promote & protect life’)

1st COMMANDMENT EXPLAINED

- The 1st Commandment is foundational to the other nine. All the others rest upon the first.
- 1. The 1st Commandment tells us to ACKNOWLEDGE God.** Ref. Psalm 10:4
 - God exists. Psalm 14:1: The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”
 - The 1st Commandment prohibits atheism. (Belief that there is no God.)
 - 2. The 1st Commandment tells us to LEARN about this God.** Ref. Psalm 19; Romans 1:19-20
 - God has revealed Himself. (He is not hiding Himself from us.)
 - His existence, glory & power are revealed in the World; His character & covenant are revealed in His Word.
 - The 1st Commandment prohibits agnosticism. (Belief that we cannot know whether there is a God.)
 - 3. The 1st Commandment tells us to KNOW this God personally.**
 - God wants us to be in relationship with Him. The LORD (“*Yahweh*”)—God’s specific, personal name.
 - The 1st Commandment prohibits moralism (a system of ethics apart from personal relationship with God.)
 - 4. The 1st Commandment tells us the PRIORITY of God.** “You shall have no other gods before Me.
 - God wants to be ‘first’ on our list.
 - 5. The 1st Commandment tells us the EXCLUSIVITY of God.** “You shall have no other gods before Me.”
 - God wants to be ‘only’ on our list. Isa 44:6; 45:20-22; Gal 4:8
 - Isa. 44:6: Thus says the LORD, King of Israel & his Redeemer: ‘I am the first and the last, & there is no God besides Me.’
 - The 1st Commandment prohibits religious pluralism. (Belief in many gods, religions; many ways to heaven.)

1st COMMANDMENT FULFILLED IN CHRIST

- 1. Jesus Christ claimed to be God. John 1:27-30** “...I and the Father are One.”
 - He received worship: At his birth (Mt 2:11), from people he healed (Jn 9:38), from his disciples (Mt 28:9,17)
- 2. The 1st Commandment is fulfilled in Jesus’ exclusivity and priority as the Savior. Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12**
 - John 14:6: I am the way and the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father except through Me.
 - Acts 4:12: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.
- 3. The 1st Commandment is fulfilled in the fullness of life Jesus gives. John 10:10; 20:30**
 - John 10:10: I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
 - John 20:30-31: ...by believing you may have life in his name.

1st COMMANDMENT APPLIED

- 1. Do you KNOW this God (through His Word)?** Ref. Exod 34:6-7a; Psalm 16:11; 36:7-9; 81:9-10
 - The God of truth & goodness... the God of delight... called ‘Father’—Who alone is worship worthy?
- 2. Are you living an “un-godly” life?**
 - “Un-godly” = living daily life ‘without’ God in my thoughts, prayers, heart, motives, actions, emotions.
-‘a practical atheist’

“[The pious mind] restrains itself from sinning, not out of dread punishment alone, but because it loves and reveres God as Father, it worships and adores him as Lord. Even if there were no hell, it would shudder at offending Him alone.”
-John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM
Questions 103-106

Q103: Which is the first commandment?

A103: The first commandment is, You shall have no other gods before Me.

Q104: What are the duties required in the first commandment?

A104: The duties required in the first commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; believing him; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him; calling upon him, giving all praise and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; being careful in all things to please him, and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; and walking humbly with him.

Q105: What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?

A105: The sins forbidden in the first commandment are: atheism, in denying or not having a God; idolatry, in having or worshiping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God; the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; the omission or neglect of anything due to him, required in this commandment; ignorance, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; bold and curious searching into his secrets; all profaneness, hatred of God; self-love, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part; vain credulity, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments, hardness of heart, pride, presumption, carnal security, tempting of God; using unlawful means, and trusting in unlawful means; carnal delights and joys; corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal; lukewarmness, and deadness in the things of God; estranging ourselves, and apostatizing from God; praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures; all compacts and consulting with the devil, and hearkening to his suggestions; making men the lords of our faith and conscience; slighting and despising God and his commands; resisting and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature.

Q106: What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?

A106: These words before me, or before my face, in the first commandment, teach us, that God, who sees all things, takes special notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God: that so it may be an argument to dissuade from it, and to aggravate it as a most impudent provocation: as also to persuade us to do as in his sight,.: Whatever we do in his service.

As we study the Ten Commandments together...

1) Pray for REVIVAL in your relationship with God.

Pray for the Lord to show you your sin—and let you see His mercy. Psalm 139:23-24; Luke 7:47

- Ps 139:23f: Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; & see if there is any hurtful way in me.
- Luke 7:47: Her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.

Pray for the Lord to give you godly sorrow for your sin—and greater desire for Him. 2 Cor 7:10; Ps 63:1

- 2 Cor 7:10: For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance that is without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- Ps 63:1: O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You, by body longs for You, in a dry and weary land where there is not water.
- Matthew 5:6: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Ps 84:10: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Pray for the Lord to separate you from your sin—and give you true repentance from the heart. Joel 2:12-13

- Joel 2:12-13: Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.

2) Pursue RELATIONSHIP with two people who don't know the Gospel.

-Use prayer, vulnerability, sacrificial love, and speaking words of truth for the purpose of sharing the Gospel.