

Commandment #2 FALSE IMAGES:--NO IDOLS

Exodus 20:1-18, II timothy 3:1-5

Last week we discovered in the first commandments

You shall have no other Gods before me:

That God demands that we put him first in our lives,
Because he alone is able to love us, protect us, and provide for us.
the Second commandment is similar

You shall not make for yourself any idols.

Henri Nouwen Tells an ancient India tale In *The Wounded Healer*

Four brothers decide to master a special ability.

After some time they met to share what they had learned.

The **first** said: "I have mastered a science, and can take a bone of some creature and create the flesh that goes with it." The **second said** , "I know how to grow that creature's skin and hair if there is flesh on its bones." The **third** said, "I am able to create its limbs if I have flesh, the skin, and the hair." **The fourth said:** "I know how to give life to that creature if its form is complete." So the brothers went into the jungle to find a bone. As fate would have it, the bone they found was a lion's. **One** added flesh to the bone, the **second** grew hide and hair, the **third** completed it with matching limbs, and the **fourth** gave the lion life.

Shaking its mane, the ferocious beast arose and jumped on his creators. He killed them all and vanished contentedly into the jungle.

Can we be sure that when we have created another god
That we will be able to control it?

(((My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Jeremiah 2:13))))

The Prophet Jeremiah says: Israel had **committed two sins**.

1. The first was the sin of omission: she had **forsaken** her God the spring of living water and
2. Her second was the sin of commission: she had made false gods, dug their own cisterns that cannot hold water.

Every Israelite living in that desert

understood the difference between a spring and a broken cistern.

Jeremiah was pointing out that it would be idiotic- nonsense
 To turn from a spring of living water to the brackish water of a cistern.
**Yet that is what Israel did when she turned
 to idols from the living God.**

**Exodus 20:4 (NIV) "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.**

No wonder Moses was so upset.

You may be thinking I don't have idols and I don't plan on
 Melting down my wife's wedding rings and jewelry to make one.
 But maybe I have thought about it to buy a new shotgun.

But have my educational degrees, goals and dreams kept me from God?
 Have my possessions, property, money made me more selfish or generous?
 How much of my present life keeps me from seeking first the Kingdom of
 God and His righteousness?

Let's consider what God might have meant

When he said: **You shall not make for yourself any idols.**

IDOLS ARE DANGEROUS BECAUSE I. THEY DISTRACT OUR SIGHT

An **Idol** is the making, molding or manifesting of anything
 in the image of God, and giving it godlike power or ability.

False Idols are when we take thoughts, themes, ideas, objects, things,
 And worship them as our Savior or Protector.

**Years ago a department store manager left all the windows open and a
 great** windstorm blew all the price makers around the store causing them to
 land in total disarray. The next day, the shoppers delighted to see socks for
 \$149.95, suits for \$1.19, shoes for 5 cents, and a scarf for \$1,299.99!

Idolatry is living as though we got the price tags mixed up.

We put low value on spiritual things and
 high value on material things.

What is your most prized possession?

Would you be willing to give it up if Jesus asked you?

If your answer is "**no**" then your possession has taken God's place
 in your heart and has become an idol.

Now there are some people who stumble over false idols
In the form of icons and statues.

People wear Christian symbols, and tattoos,
jewelry, guardian angel pins,
In hope that it will protect them.
Hollywood is full of rappers, musicians, and movie stars
who jangle with crosses and crucifixes.
Even in Aberdeen how many car rearview mirrors
Dangle with crystals, dream catchers, rosaries, and dashboard saints
In hope that they have power to protect us.

There is nothing wrong with religious jewelry, but
Let's make sure that our pictures of Jesus and Religious
Themes are not hung to keep demons or evil spirit out.
Because if you make that image or tattoo your hope
We have moved to idolatry.
We serve a living Christ Whose holy spirit is not attached to
Any wall, communion bread, jewelry or wine.

Hebrews 7: 25 says that Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens....He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. Hebrews 7:25-26, 27b

Now we still do have idols, as shrines or images in our world.
In Africa, and South American countries even in East.
Go to the any Hindu or Chinese restaurant and you will find
A little dusty roly-poly shrine of Buddha.

Even Jeremaih 10:3-5 Spoofs his people when he say: You cut a tree. Carve an image. Bedeck it with silver and gold. Then you worship it. He said your idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field. And they cannot speak or walk; They have to be carried. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil nor can they do good."

That why God says I am the Living God and don't
Try to **make, mold or manifest** the essence and nature of God

**IDOLS ARE DANGEROUS BECAUSE
I. THEY DISTRACT OUR SIGHT
IDOLS ARE DANGEROUS BECAUSE
II. THEY DIVIDE OUR MINDS.**

We are not to worship what we imagine or think God is.
Knowledge can become an idol.

“Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” I Corinthians 8:1

Too much knowledge can be dangerous.

It can pull us away from what is right and true.

Take the modern computer.

People spend hundreds even thousands of hours before it.

That wonderful source of knowledge that allow us to do research,

Correct our grammatical and spelling errors.

And put us in touch with a multiplicity of music and song

So we can download Mozart on your iPods.

Are you saying Mozart isn't on your ITune list?

That same technology can also enable child pornography to flourish and spread everywhere. The same technology that enables us to order and buy on the internet enables identity theft.

The Bible says in Daniel 12:4 in the last days knowledge will increase.

Make knowledge your idol and you will open Pandora's box,
And you will eat apples off of the tree in the Garden of Eden
And suffer great consequences.

The U.S. Department of Education commissioned Paul Vitz to do a study and examined sixty social-studies textbooks used by 87 percent of the nation's elementary-school children. They were looking for "primary" references to religious activity such as prayer, church attendance, or participation in religious ceremonies, and "secondary" references, such as citing the date when a church was built. What Vitz discovered was a "total absence of any primary religious text about typical contemporary American religious life" and only a few secondary pictures and passages touching upon the religious. The few direct references to historic religion centered on Amish, Catholic, Jewish, and Mormon faiths, leaving a "very curious" deletion of characteristic Protestant religious life.

Has the NEA association deliberately worked at removing religion as a relevant point in our history. The only mention is usually some pictures of Pilgrims in the first bountiful harvest with the American Indians that first thanksgiving without mention to whom thanks was being given. One mother told Vitz whose son's social-studies book made no mention of religion as part of the pilgrims' life, and her son told her that "Thanksgiving was when the pilgrims gave thanks to the Indians."

Ecclesiastes 1:18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

Knowledge can become an idol,
 We can worship our knowledge our technology.
 That's the warning we're given.
 Knowledge can be even more dangerous than ignorance –
 just as too much fearlessness,
 can do more harm than too much fear.

**"If you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish."
 (Deuteronomy 8:19).**

IDOLS ARE DANGEROUS BECAUSE
I. THEY DISTRACT OUR SIGHT
II. THEY DIVIDE OUR MINDS.
III. THEY DISTORT OUR WORSHIP.

We are not to make, mold, or manifesting anything in the image of God,
 And that includes our imagining. or re-imagining.
 What does your God look like?

GRANDPA GOD

We love the grandpa God.
 Grandpa God is so tolerant.
 He sits in his chair and is so forgiving, loving and kind,
 It doesn't matter what you do
 How much you sin, the language you use,
 The places you go, your sex life, or business life,
 because your Guardrail free Grandpa has no rules,
 and no consequences.
 We all go to heaven under this Universal loving God.
 I believe that this false image of God has sent more to Hell than

any other image.

**the second image that distort God is the
Is the CANDY LAND GOD.**

The God who gives us all things.

This is the Santa Claus god.

The Pinata God.

He swings in the heavens and when you want some goodies
You just swat him with a stick and he pours out his blessing.
The Candy Land God desires you to be rich,
drive a Lincoln, live in a mansion, Marry a beautiful woman
or a gorgeous husband. Have boats loads of
cash, possessions, and worldly pleasures.

This distorted and false image of God creates more
Disappointment because we still have to live
with the reality of disease, death, bankruptcy and poverty,

THE PARAMEDIC GOD.

Is the 911 Micro wave god.

Sound the Siren

And down he will come

With answers for your pop test even though you have not studied.
dates for the weekend.

A parking space at Walmart.

A healing from the Sniffles.

1. you get too close to the fire. – he will douse you.
2. You get too deep in the water – he will come and rescue you.
3. you get a little disease -he will come and heal you.

We love this detached God who rescues and returns

And leaves us to our life until the next crises

**This false image of God is responsible for more doubt and
Despair because were not always rescued and healed.**

Suffering can be a tool in which we grow in our faith.

**Paul writes: We rejoice in or sufferings because we know that suffering
produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.**

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us. Romans 5:3-5

The last false god I want to mention is

THE SUPREME COURT GOD

A false god with a flowing long black robe.

Carries around a 40 pound gavel....

And can't wait for us to mess up and

Stand before his court of judgment.

Guilty guilty guilty you are punished

you're a failure, You're no good a fraud a freak.

There is nothing you can do that will please this

false image of a CRUEL GOD is responsible for keeping people away from a personal relationship because of our fear of Rejection.

This God couldn't possibly love me.

I'm too great a sinner. I CAN NEVER PLEASE HIM

We get these false images or idols of God from our parents, Grandparents, Even churches and pastors.

But none of these images are correct.

Because God is too great for our minds to

Mold, Make or IMAGINE.

That's why Jesus said:

If you have seen me you have seen the father. John 14:9

What is it in your life that has come between you and God?

Between personal pleasure and godly obedience?

Today God calls us to renew our intention

To put him first in our lives that we do not

Mold, make or manifest anything that would come between.

God and Us.

As our closing song says:

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store.

From EACH IDOL that would keep us, saying "Christian, Love me more!"