

Commandment I

Scripture: Exod. 20:1-3; Deut. 5:6-7

Intro: This commandment begins with God where all things find their origin. Where Genesis begins and Revelation ends. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 22:21)

I. Revelation of God. (Deut. 5:6-21)

- A. Declaration of Himself. (Ex. 20:1-3)
 - 1. As the Deliverer: from bondage. (Ex. 3-12)
 - a. Execution of judgment on idolatry: gods. (Ex. 12:12; Num. 33:4)
 - b. Exacted justice on idolators: godless. (Deut. 32:16)
 - 2. As the Deity: faithful. (Ex. 20:2)
 - a. Who is Creator: requires worship as maker and deserves it.
 - b. Who is Redeemer: reserves worship as mighty deliverer. (Jn. 4:23-24)
- B. Demonstration of Himself. (Ex. 20:2)
 - 1. As the Potentate. (I Tim. 6:15-16; 1:17; Rev. 19:6)
 - a. God vs. gods: Baalism turned the sexual act into a sacred act so the temples of Baal had crowds of priestesses who were sacred prostitutes. Turned sexual immorality into an act of worship and gluttony and drunkenness into an act of praising the Baals. Idolatry + adultery = apostacy. (Hos. 4:14)
 - b. Adoraton vs. apostacy: worship – service. (Mt. 4:10; Jn. 4:23-24)
 - 3. As the Preeminent. (Col. 1:18)
 - a. God first: “before me”. (Ex. 20:3; Mt. 6:33; Deut. 27:15)
 - b. God foremost: “no other”. (Ps. 50:22)

II. Regulation from God. (Ex. 20:3; Deut. 6:4-5)

- A. Prohibition: forbidden by God. (Jer. 2:27-28)
 - 1. God allows no rival: joining false god with true God. (II Kings 17:33)
 - 2. God accepts no rivalry: idolatry prone humanity not endured. (Ps. 96:5; Josh. 24:15)
 - a. Idolatry is silly and irrational. Spiritual adultery. Represents God in a bodily shape. (Rom 1:23)
 - b. Ignominious to engage in idolatry. If this first command received the respect it demands, obedience to the other nine would follow as a matter of course.
- B. Prescription: foremost is God. (Mk. 12:30-31; Mt. 22:37-40)
 - 1. The law requires we worship God: O.T....N.T. requirement is through Christ.
 - a. Object of worship: No other authority. (I Jn. 5:21)
 - b. Order of worship: No other is august.
 - 2. The Lord requires we worship godly: outward (activity); inward (attitude).
 - a. Love to God is expressed by obedience to His will. (Jn. 14:21; 13:34-35; I Jn. 5:1-2)
 - b. Loyalty to God is expressed by reverence, fear, trust. (II Tim. 1:7)

III. Relation to God. (Mk 12:30-31; Mt. 7:12; Rom. 13:10; James 2:8)

- A. Positive approach: Adoration. (Jn. 4:23-24; II Tim. 3:5)
 - 1. In Spirit: Trait.
 - 2. In Scripture: Truth.
- B. Negative application: Idolatry. (Col. 3:5; Jer. 17:5; Isa. 53:2)
 - 1. Prosperity: Wealth. (Mt. 13:22)
 - 2. Pleasure: Bliss. (II Tim. 3:4)
 - 3. Partying: Health. (Phil. 3:19)