

10 Commandments Pt 2: "First Commandment" -Aug 3, 2025, Ex 20:3; Dt 5:7; Is 45:20-25

Intro: We are just getting going on our study of the 10 commandments found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Since we are reading the commandments during our confession of sin and the catechism during our confession of faith, we will be looking at other passages that accentuate the commandments in some meaningful way.

READ TEXT: Isaiah 45:20-25

"Gather yourselves and come; Draw near together, you who have escaped from the nations; They do not know, Who carry about their graven image of wood And pray to a god who cannot save. ²¹ Declare and draw near *with your case*; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has made this heard from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, Yahweh? And **there is no other God besides Me**, A righteous God and a Savior; **There is none except Me.** ²² Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; **For I am God, and there is no other.** ²³ I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That **to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance** (Rom 14:11; Phil 2:10). ²⁴ They will say of Me, 'Only in Yahweh are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, And all who were angry at Him will be put to shame. ²⁵ In Yahweh all the seed of Israel Will be justified and will boast."

The first commandment lays the **foundation** for all the other commandments stressing God's uniqueness and exclusivity. The commandment to have no other Gods before the LORD is the bedrock that the other commandments are built on. Everything else is in some way a working out of the first commandment.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism will provide a structure for how we address the commandment today giving us three points of instruction.

I. Be **Accurate** in Your Understanding: There is only one God. Ther is no other. (v21-22)

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly. -**be accurate in your understanding.**

The text we read today repeats 3x (twice at the end of v21 and once in v22) that YHWH is God and there is no other. In the rest of the chapter, he says the same thing six more times. So, in the course of 25 verses, God says 9 times that He is God and there is no other. Get the point?

World Religions: Allah, Buddha, are not God. Ghandi was wrong. No we can't all "coexist." Hinduism is not legit. New Age spiritualism is witchcraft. All of this is mutually exclusive. So is secular humanism. It actually excludes anything that does not morph into its values. Additionally, modern Talmudic Judaism does not worship the same God as Christianity. They believe Jesus is boiling in a pot of excrement.

In Jn 8:58, Jesus equates Himself with YHWH of the Old Testament, saying "Before Abraham was, I AM." Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him (Jn 14:6). John 14:9, "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." John 10:30, "I and the Father are one." **Jesus claims exclusivity to divinity.**

[Joel 2:32a](#) says that whoever calls upon the Name of the LORD (Yahweh) will be saved. This verse is quoted by Peter in [Acts 2:21](#), and by Paul in [Romans 10:13](#). Both apostles are referring to Jesus as the LORD in these verses.

[Isaiah 44:6](#) says the LORD (Yahweh) refers to himself as "the First and the Last" and also adds "There is no God but me". In [Revelation 1:8](#) and [17](#), Jesus similarly refers to himself as "the Alpha and the Omega" and "the First and the Last".

In [Zechariah 12:10](#) the LORD (Yahweh) speaks and says, "they will look on Me whom they have pierced." [4] This is Jesus speaking ([Psa. 22:16](#); [John 19:34](#)). This verse from Zechariah appears again in [Revelation 1:7b](#) and is about Jesus Christ.

Jesus is God. Not Allah, not nature, not mother earth, etc. etc. There is no other God. There is one God.

Cults like Mormonism and Jehovah's witnesses also worship another God. Just because they say they believe in Jesus or use a Bible, doesn't make them Christian or orthodox or right. Mormons (Latter Day Saints) believe Jesus is the offspring of God and Mary. They believe he came into being at his birth and was not eternal. They deny the Trinity. Jehovah's witnesses also believe that Jesus is a created being and not coeternal with the Father. They do not worship Him and likewise are not Trinitarian.

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, coeternal, coequal. All these other religions believe something else. The first commandment prohibits the acknowledgement or worship of any other god and any other religion promoting such is prohibited. That is why the phrase "Its not a religion but a relationship" doesn't work. You must define what is meant by Jesus and when you do that, you enter into "religious" language.

There have always been false gods and no doubt, the world will continue to produce more. In the Old Testament, we see figures like Baal, Asherah, Molech, and Dagon. All had ties to fertility, and sexual overtones. We worship the one true God alone. There is no other. We need to be accurate in our understanding so that we worship the true God. So, we see that accuracy is important.

II. Do not be mindless or overly emotional -Modern Christian Manifestations (Denominations and Practices)

Q. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment forbids the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone. -**do not call any activity worship that is not commanded as such.**

-**Dead Denominationalism** and going through the motions. Insincere. Heartless. Passionless. It really is worshipping ourselves through self-righteous ritual. Growing up, I experienced this. If we're not careful, as good Presbyterians, we can fall into this. Wrote memorization and meaningless ritual is not worship. There must be heart behind the head. Parents, teach your children why we do what we do. Why do we sing the Psalms? Why do we follow the liturgy? Why do we have confession of sin? Why do we preach from the Bible? Why do we take the Lord's supper every Sunday? Teach them why we do what we do.

-Emotional Idiocy.

Mega church "worship" is **entertainment** masked and baptized. Just this week I've observed everything from full on fit throwing, to interpretive dance, to trapeze artist performances all under the banner of "worship." It is all complete nonsense and is an abomination to God.

This is why we believe in the **regulative principle of worship** which says that only what God commands is acceptable as worship. We are not allowed to do whatever we want and call that worship. That is something but it is not worship. We are careful not to add or take away from what God has said regarding divine worship.

God struck Nadab and Abihu dead for offering "strange fire" ([Lev. 10:1-3](#)).

Commentators are not sure about the exact nature of their infraction, but they do agree that the seriousness of the offense is related to their worshipping God in a manner that He had not commanded. They sought to be innovators in worship, and they paid the price for it. Lest we think that the Lord no longer takes His worship as seriously as He did back then, consider [1 Corinthians 11:27-30](#). Many of the Corinthian Christians were taking part in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper inappropriately, and some of them

died for their unworthy partaking. These passages, and many others, make it clear that it is "a life-and-death matter to worship God according to his command," as one Reformed theologian has put it.¹

Parents, church is a time for reverence for all of God's people including your children. At an early age, they should be taught to participate in the divine service. They should not be horseplaying or making a ruckus. They can get a drink and go to the bathroom BEFORE church. They should be coached to observe all that Jesus commanded. They should assume a posture of holiness, reverence, and preparedness. It is not unkind or mean to expect children to behave in church and participate in the service. The first commandment applies to them as well as you. We are all called to worship Him.

We are called 1) to be accurate and correctly directed, 2) to be correctly postured, and 3) to be real in our devotion, that is to be sincere.

III. Do not give your affections to another -Personal Obedience

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?

A. These words before me in the first commandment teach us, that God, who sees all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.¹²⁵ **-do not be fooled (Gal 6:7) God is not pleased with inaccurate or insincere service.**

Matthew 4:10. "Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

Matt 6:24 "You cannot serve God and money."

We worship ourselves. We want what we want. We insist on having our way in our time. We think we are God and can control situations and people and outcomes. We insist on having things curated to our likings and get upset or angry when we are inconvenienced or uncomfortable.

We are called to sacrifice ourselves (Rom. 12:1-2) by repenting, that is changing our minds and having them conformed to Christ. This is our spiritual act of service or worship.

We always think that we are the exception and not the rule. We think that God will give us a pass because He loves us so much. Gentle parenting does this with their kids too. We provide excuses and exceptions to our children because they're ours. No. The law is universally applied

¹ <https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/the-regulative-principle>

as a reflection of God's character. No one gets a pass. No one is excused. Romans 1:20 says that we are all without excuse.

The opposite is true. His law is unchanging and unbreakable. We will break ourselves on it when we sin, we die. Sin makes you stupid and sad. Holiness leads to happiness for the believer. Personal holiness and piety is pleasing to the LORD.

Summary: According to the first commandment, it is sin to:

-Be **ignorant** as to the true God and His worship.

-Pursue anything other than single minded, razor sharp, focus and **primary** attention to the God of heaven and earth.

-Have someone or something else as the object of our **affection** and devotion.

Application:

1. **Know** who God is. What are His attributes? What are His communicable and noncommunicable qualities?
2. Give God **true** worship. Know why we practice the Regulative Principle of Worship (RPW) and do your duty. Give him your allegiance and affections.
3. **Repent** of ignorance or willful sin. Do it regularly and quickly. Do not delay.

Conclusion: The first commandment lays the foundation for all the other commandments stressing God's uniqueness and exclusivity.

We thank God for the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus to bring us to God through His death, burial, resurrection and ascension. The good news is that forgiveness of sin is offered through the shed blood of Christ. Let us repent and believe today. Let us be built up into a kingdom of priests.

For Christ and His kingdom, for a thousand years. Amen!

Closing prayer: Our God and Father, thank You for Your mercy. Thank you for this instruction. Would your Spirit apply it to our lives that we may be pleasing to You. Find us people informed and equipped by Your word, empowered by Your Spirit to make disciples of all nations, starting with these United States, The Great State of Texas, and our home here in the Permian Basin. May You use us in our generation, to destroy the works of the devil and build the glorious kingdom of our God and King. As we come to the table of communion, meet with us as we remember that Christ gave His live as a ransom for many. In Jesus' name, Amen.