

IDOLS

Exodus 20:4-5a

SERMON SUMMARY

Atop Sinai, God gives Moses ten commandments. The first commandment warns us not to worship wrong gods; the second commandment warns us not to worship the right God the wrong way. Yahweh tells Moses that the Israelites shouldn't not make an image of God as the object of their worship. That is, they are commanded not to add to God or define in ways that He has not defined Himself. For the ancients, that literally meant not to make a physical representation, such as a stone or wood image. For us, it means that we shouldn't define God by how we want Him to be, how we'd prefer Him to be, or what we'd like Him to do. We don't need to make a mental image of God because God fulfills the second commandment when Jesus, in the image of God, incarnates among humanity. Therefore, if we want to obey the second commandment, we need to focus on Jesus and hear Jesus speak.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If God were a superhero that you could create, what would he look like? What powers would he possess?
2. How would you finish these phrases: "I like to think about God like..." or "The way I see God is..." Why do we so often default to making God in our own image?
3. Read Exodus 20:4-5(a). What was going on for the Israelites that resulted in this command? Why are these images of God or idol a dangerous thing?
4. Idols can't speak or save, so why do you think we act like they do? That is, why do we constantly give our affections to our idols?
5. Read Colossians 1:15. What is the significance that Jesus is called the "image of God" in the New Testament? Continue in Colossians, verses 15-20 for a full picture of this significance.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Are there any idols God is calling you to smash?
- How can you best hear Jesus speak this week and beyond?

BIBLICAL TEXTS CITED

“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.” **Exodus 20:4-5a**

And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. **Hebrews 1: 2-3**

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? **John 14:9**

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.

Colossians 1:15-20

SERMON ONLINE

<https://www.genesisthejourney.com/sermon/idols/>