

## **Making Life Make Sense (Transformed by the 10 Commandments)**

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. *1John 5:2*

### **Session 2:**

<sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. *Exodus 20:4-6*

### **The Commandment of Worship**

There is no equal to God who is the only one that deserves our worship. The bible informs us he is jealous when we engage (as Israel) in other forms of worship, even self-worship. This commandment exposes the heart of our relationship with God and should lead one to ask an important question, do I really place anything before God? What is the proper way to worship God? The second commandment reminds us, that only we, of all the created things, are made in the image of God. God made us in his likeness and is still molding us in the image of his dear son.

(for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), *Exodus 34:14*

People in the ancient world produced many kinds of idols, images, and other substitutes for God. Israel was exclusively forbidden from creating any form that would distract them from the pure worship of God.

- We must understand this prohibition of fashioning images was not a statement about every kind of art.

### **Engage:**

**How do we perceive God?**

### **Engage:**

**What is the best way you would explain God to a non-believer - give us your approach?**

### **The Fear of the Lord**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment would never be fulfilled in us until we develop a strong sense of the Fear of the Lord. Everything begins with this, it is also the basis for knowing God himself. Solomon ended the book of Ecclesiastes with the following profound realization.

- The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. *Ecclesiastes 12:13*
- A healthy fear of God and an understanding that God is different from us is essential for any person desiring to be considered righteous.
- The Fear of the lord is designed so you don't work so hard at making life happen because reverence for God positions him to lead you.
- The commandments don't work without the fear of the lord as primary in the life of the believer.

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, <sup>2</sup>making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup>yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, <sup>4</sup>if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, <sup>5</sup>then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. **Proverbs 2:1-5**

- Notice the first thing you must engage - acceptance. This is an act of faith - also submission - a choice you make to embrace God and all he has to share.

The knowledge of God cannot be found apart from the fear of the lord.

**Engage:**

**Why is the knowledge of God difficult without the fear of the lord?**

**Engage:**

**How does the fear of the Lord position the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment in your life to benefit you?**

### **The Effects of Idolatry**

God has never made himself visible to any man, if we want to know what God looks like the scriptures are clear we see his glory in the face of Jesus. (*2 Corinthians 4:6*). While we don't see God we do see many facets of him revealed in his word.

If God wanted a visual image of himself he could have easily supplied one but the idolatrous hearts in humanity would have perverted that image in some way.

- Friedrich Nietzsche who once wrote, "God is dead," also wrote, "If there is a God how can I bear not to be that God?" this is the core issue in our idolatrous hearts.
- It is not that we deny God its just that we replace Him with ourselves. Yet the denial of God is in itself an act of making oneself God.
- Kanye West wrote a book called "The Book of Yeezus" where they take the Bible and replace God with the rappers name.

**Scriptures: (*Psalm 81:9*) (*Matthew 4:9-10*)**

### **What is the connection between immorality and idolatry?**

The ancient world had many idolatrous religions and the worship was linked to fertility of animals, lands, plants, sun, moon and soil. This led to fertility rites that included sexual orgies and temple prostitution. Immorality became the focus of their temple worship. They initiated young females into womanhood by enlisting them to serve as honored temple prostitutes. Males were expected to frequent the temple brothels in worship. Immorality and degeneracy were dressed in religious garb and considered virtues. This is why idolatry and immorality are so frequently linked in the Bible.

- The Apostle Paul addressed similar issues of his day by informing the people to; Put to death therefore what is earthly in you; sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. *Colossians 3:5*
- Peter linked self - gratifying behavior to idolatry; For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. *1 Peter 3:4*

**Engage:**

**What are some examples of idolatry linked to immorality that we see in our culture today?**

**Engage:**

**How would you answer those who say, what was considered sin in biblical times is no longer?**