

“Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods Before Me & Thou Shalt Not Make unto Thee Any Graven Image” *Ex. 20:1-6*

Open: *Background*

- Israel had been in Egyptian captivity for nearly 500 years. A land filled with a tangible god for everything.
 - It is a recorded historical fact that Egypt had over 2,000 different gods.
- We need to understand that this conditioned Israel to live with a reliance on the tangible and not the spiritual.
 - They had become programmed to look to man and his solutions for their problem instead of relying on the one and only true and living God.
- God wanted His children to be blessed by him, but this meant that Israel would have to learn to follow God’s leading and not the culture they were living in or the cultures they would come into contact with.
 - God needed to show them that living in the land of Canaan required a faith in God that living in Egypt did not; and that there were severe consequences for disobeying God.
 - “You cannot get God’s results using man’s methods”

Tran: “The Law was not given for salvation; but for the safety and stability of a moral people.”

- We need to recognize that Commandment #1, “*Thou shalt have no other gods before me*” is the foundational commandment for **all** children of God.
 - Choosing to make God the only God in one’s life is choosing to not just put God first in their life but making God’s way the only way for their life. **ILL:** *When someone becomes a citizen of the United States, they must disavow allegiance to any foreign powers and swear allegiance only to the United States.*
 - It is important that a Christian decides for himself very early in their life that regardless of what another religion or culture says, they are going to vow allegiance to obey God and only God.
- We need to understand the importance of not just verbally admitting that we believe God is the only God; but living our life by obeying God in every area of our life. *Even the devil believes and trembles.* **James 2:18-20**
 - If you can tear down the authority of someone or something, then you open the door for man’s philosophy to rule and not principles. **ILL:** *The danger of tearing down the Constitution of the United States is it allows for current culture to determine what is best instead of what has been proven will work.*
 - It is important that a Christian decides that by faith they are going to obey the laws, principles, and guidelines set in place by God in His Word regardless of what another says or what they think is best.
- We need to realize that everyone will be ruled, and that they choose who will rule them by whose rules they choose to follow.
 - You will either choose to be ruled by the iron hand of man, or you can choose to be led by a God Who loves you and cares for you. **ILL:** *When Israel was obedient, they were led by God. When they became rebellious, they chose to follow the hard rule of man.*
 - It is important that a Christian decides that they are going to follow someone who cares about them and wants what is best for them instead of following someone who is only looking to use them for personal profit.

I. Decide that you are going to believe that there is only one true and living God.

- Don't fall into the trap of "You are ignorant and brainwashed because you choose to believe in God" or get wrapped up into allowing new-age Science to cast doubt on the reality of the existence of God.
- Believing right is not being narrow minded its being right. **ILL:** As silly as it is to believe that $2+2=5$; it is just as silly to believe that you are wrong for believing that there is only ONE God.

A. God created the world; you did not evolve from a monkey.

1. Historical knowledge proves that when man studies the facts, he always comes to the conclusion that design in nature requires a Divine designer.
 - a. Cicero a Roman Statesman (44 b.c.). = wrote a book called On the Nature of the Gods. A lost scientist recognized that the universe must have a Designer, and that materialistic evolution could not occur.
 - b. William Paley (1802) = Wrote Natural Theology. A British philosopher explained that the complexity in nature could not have come without the design of a Being greater than man.
2. Bible facts tells us that God is indeed the creator of the universe as we know it to be.
 - a. **Gen. 1:1** "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
 - b. **Ps. 19:1** "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."
 - c. **Heb.11:3** "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. "
 - d. **Rom. 1:20** "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

B. God created you to be **who** you are; you do not get to choose **what** you are.

1. **Ps. 139:14-17** "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. [15] My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. [16] Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. [17] How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!"
2. **Jer. 1:5** "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

C. God set in place the boundaries of right and wrong; you do not get to decide what right and wrong is.

1. God is truth. Without God there is not truth, anything based on something other than God's Word cannot be truth. **John 14:6** "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

2. What man chooses to believe about the truth does not change what truth is. **Rom. 3:3-4** “For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? [4] God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar”

II. Decide that you will not have faith in any other god other than the true and living God.

- **Ex. 20:4-5a** “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: [5] Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God...”
 - **Mark. 12:30** “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy **heart**, and with all thy **soul**, and with all thy **mind**, and with all thy **strength**: this is the first commandment.”
- A. Place your faith in the principles and teachings of God’s Word not in the **emotions** of man. Do not make feelings your god. **Prov. 3:5-6**
1. Avoid the dangerous philosophies of “Follow your heart”, “Doing what you think is best”, or “It’s ok to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right.” **Jer. 17:9** “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it.”
 2. Decide that you are going to let God’s Word and its principles dictate what right and wrong is not man or his feelings.
- B. Invest your life in getting to know God and doing with your life what God wants and not in the **expressions** of oneself. Don’t place your faith in the unbiblical philosophies of man.
1. Avoid the dangerous philosophies of “It’s your life you can do with it what you want”, “You only live once”, or “It’s your body so its your choice”. **I Cor. 6:19-20** “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? [20] For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
 2. Decide that in your life you are not going to try to be the best version of you that you can be (filthy rags); but you are going to let God mold you into the person He wants you to be.
- C. Place your faith in the teachings of God’s Word not in the **education** of man. Do not make education your god in life.
1. When it comes to being educated, do not forget where education begins. **Prov. 1:7** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
 2. Recognize in your life that just because you know facts it does not mean that you are educated. **II Tim. 3:7** “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
 3. Do not choose to surround yourself with people who tell you what you want to hear, but with people who will tell you what is right. **II Tim4:3-4** “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;[4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
- D. Decide you are going to spend your time obeying God, and not spending all your **efforts** to do religion your own way. Don’t place your faith in man’s interpretation of what being “spiritual” is.
1. Realize God wants man’s obedience by faith and not man’s traditions. **I Sam. 15:22** & **Is. 1:11**

2. Remember that all of our efforts and energy are useless unless I decide to do God's work God's way.

Close: Ps. 115:4-8

- Have you decided (whether it be knowingly or unknowingly) to make something in your life a god (placing something as a higher priority than God) – Sports, music, personal desires, education?
- Decide today that you will not allow worldly or carnal philosophies to dictate what you believe; You are simply going to by faith believe what the Bible says.

The 10 Commandments

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| 1. Thou Shalt have no other gods before me. | 6. Thou shalt not kill. |
| 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. |
| 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. | 8. Thou shalt not steal. |
| 4. Remember the Sabbath. | 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness. |
| 5. Honour thy father and thy mother. | 10. Thou shalt not covet. |