

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that God would help us hide His word in our heart

## Exodus 20:4-6 - Spiritual Porno is a No-no

INTRO - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment is the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest. God gave more words to some laws maybe to reiterate or emphasize them. There is more detail for us to deal with in them. It seems that we have the biggest problems with the longest commandments. The Law exposes our inner sin. A "Do Not Touch" sign makes me want to, well... a whole paragraph...that really tempts me. We look for loopholes in the long ones. The 1<sup>st</sup> command was about worshipping the *Right God*. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is about loving Him in the *right way*. We can worship the right God in the wrong way. Images are the wrong way to worship. God forbids images, or even our own imaginations, of what we think He is like. God has given us *revelation* so beware of man's *imagination*. The Law is all about love and how to love. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment mentions: Love, Hate and Jealousy. The 1<sup>st</sup> was about spiritual adultery. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is about spiritual pornography. God's jealousy is aroused when we use images and gaze at pictures instead of focusing on His Person. When we imagine what God is like while ignoring His presence & who He really is - big problem because *nothing is like God*. Love for, or hatred of, God is revealed by our adherence to this long law.

### WHAT KIND OF IMAGE IS FORBIDDEN?

- God does not forbid all images and artistry only those representing Deity/deity
  - God made a beautiful world. He made us creative and imaginative - good
  - God commanded great works of art for His tabernacle
    - Angels, plants, colors...great artistry and creativity
  - But that can only be done to represent creatures....never the Creator
- God is incomparable Isaiah 40:18 there is no one or nothing *like* God
  - Ex. 20:4 gives the details of what is entailed in forbidden images/likenesses
    - Heaven above - Sun, moon, stars, light, clouds, birds
    - Earth beneath - plants, trees, wood, rock, minerals, animals, man
    - Water under the earth - fish
  - Deut. 4:16-19 We cannot represent the Creator with any of His creatures
    - God made man in His image, but we are not to make God in our image
- Images of God teach lies about God
  - Habakkuk 2:18 images are speechless, but God has spoken
    - Those who make them are trusting in them - their own imagination
  - Psalm 115:4-8 The Living God cannot be represented by lifeless images
    - Those who uses images become like the images they look at
- Even approved religious images can be dangerous to us
  - God commanded Moses to make the serpent on the pole - Numb. 21/John 3:14
  - Like alcohol to an alcoholic so this image became a problem to sinners
    - Nehushtan - 2 Kings 18:4
  - Images have a corrupting influence, especially for us who are naturally corrupt
- We have Gods voice not His visage - Deut. 4:12-13 - no form just faith in His Word

## GOD IS JEALOUS FOR HIS IMAGE

- God is a Jealous God – Ex. 20:5      Ex. 34:14      Deut. 4:24      James 4:4-5
  - Father, Son and Spirit are jealous for our love (exclusive marital love/friendship)
  - God is also jealous for His image. Jealous about mischaracterization
    - Misrepresentation make Him jealous
- There is only one image of the invisible God.      Col. 1:15      Col 2:9      Heb. 1:3
  - Jesus, the Son of God, is the only image of God - (spitten image of The Father)
  - All other representations of God are falsifications
- We have no form we only have His WORD - JESUS IS THE WORD/IMAGE OF GOD
  - He is the *true image*, the *right image*, the *only image* of the invisible God
  - Beware of caricatures of Christ because God is jealous for His image
- Pictures of Jesus teach lies.      They are a false image of God (not whole truth)
  - They leave out the chief things that make Him Christ – His Deity - half christ
  - There is a debate in society over the complexion of Jesus (combat over complex.)
    - white jesus, tan jesus, brown jesus, black jesus.
  - All of it is just making Jesus in our own image and what we image God looks like
    - WE ARE NOT TO MAKE IMAGES OF GOD
    - these images are caricatures and cartoons of our Creator
    - graffiti of god distorts the image of God. Misrepresents who He is
  - we are not to paint our own porno - God is jealous for His image

## SPIRITUAL PORNOGRAPHY

- Spiritual porno is a no-no.      crass but correct      stark point but to the point
  - Any image of the Trinity is spiritual pornography
    - God the Father is represented on the ceiling of Sistine Chapel
    - God the Son – crucifixes, stone, metal, wood , plastic, painting (fish)
    - God the Spirit - bird
  - Catholicism is full of all their “blow up dolls” (omit the 2<sup>nd</sup> and slit 10<sup>th</sup> in 2)
    - Us protestants love our pictures
      - Not high artistry but rank idolatry and pornography
- Pornography is addicting and Spiritual porno is also
  - Like alcohol to an alcoholic so is an image to a sinner - lust of the eyes
  - Beware of viewing religious images (ok images) with veneration
    - image will get everyone in the end - image of the beast – we love images
- Spiritual pornography will affect your family      Exodus 20:5-6
  - You can bless/curse your family by the images of God you put before your family. How is God portrayed in your family?
- This commandment is all about our love or hate for God and His jealousy for His image
  - I imagine on that great day when we see Him as He is - face to face - we will be ashamed of all of our vile images. He might even wipe away our tears.
  - If we love Him, we don't want to misrepresent Him or offend Him
  - Now - having not seen Him, we love him, but we don't make an image of Him.