

# **Commandment 2 – “Thou (You) Shall Not Make Unto You Any Graven Image”**



**Exodus 20:4-6**

- Commandment 1 – “Thou (You) shall have no other gods before Me”
- God’s character demands loyalty.

## Commandment 2 – “Thou (You) shall not make unto you any graven image” – Exodus 20:4-6

- Israel was surrounded by peoples who worshiped images also called gods.
  - Making an idol is attempting to create a visible representation of the invisible God.
  - The principle behind this command applies equally to all three persons of the trinity.
1. It is impossible for any image or picture of God to truly represent the personal glory and character of God (Isa. 40:18).
  2. God is so transcendent, so holy and unsearchable, that any image of Him dishonors Him.
  3. The believer’s thoughts and concepts of God must not be based on images or pictures of Him, but on God’s Word and on His revelation (John 17:3).
- An idol is a substitute for God and therefore not a god.
  - “I am the Lord that is my name, and my glory I will not give to another, neither my praise to graven (carved) images” (Isa. 42:8).
  - “Little children keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21).
  - As the LORD GOD, the Creator of all people, He has one major concern: how people worship Him.
  - The false gods worshipped by people are innumerable.
  - What is worship? Worship is the heart reaching out to God (drawing near God for His love and care) and giving of one’s heart to God in praise, thanksgiving, service, and witness.
  - This is exactly what God demands: that we reach out to Him, draw near to Him for His love and care.

1. Who is to obey this commandment (v. 4)? “You.”
2. How long was this commandment to be in force?
  - God is the great Creator, the Sovereign Lord and Majesty of the Universe, so He alone is to be acknowledged.
  - How long is this commandment in force? As long as God’s creation stands.
3. What is forbidden by this commandment (v. 4-5)?
  - A. This Commandment prohibits the making of an idol whatsoever (v. 4).
    - To make an image of anything for worship is wrong.
    - This commandment also forbids the making of an image of God Himself.
    - There is only one true image of God, only one image that is acceptable to God: The Lord Jesus Christ.
  - B. This commandment prohibits the worship of any false god whatsoever.
    - This strikes a death blow against one of the most common ideas and claims of people: that all religions worship the same god.
  - C. This commandment prohibits covetousness, prohibits craving after and seeking anything more than one craves after and seeks God (Col. 3:5).
    - Covetousness is idolatry.
4. Why did God give this commandment?
  - A. First, God prohibits the worship of idols because He is a jealous God.
    - The word “jealous” means to be red in the face.
  - B. Second, God prohibits the worship of idols because the influence of idolatry is passed down from the parents to their children.
  - C. Third, God prohibits the worship of idols because the influence of a loving and obedient parent lasts forever.

**5. What is the decision required by this commandment? Obedience (John 14:21; 15:10, 14).**

**A. The commandment can be stated positively: We must choose whom we will serve (Jos. 24:14-15; 1 Kings 18:21).**

**B. The commandment can be stated negatively: We must not worship any other god (Deut. 11:16; 1 Cor. 10:14).**

- What are the consequences of breaking this commandment?**
- What are the benefits of keeping this commandment?**