

DON'T MAKE IDOLS

Scripture used: Exodus 20:4-6

OVERVIEW

As we continue on in our current series, "God's Top 10," we come to God's second commandment for His people found in Exodus 20:4-6: do not make idols. An idol is defined as anything that takes the place of God; anything that occupies the space and place in your life that only God should occupy. In many religions, both then and now, people made statues, wooden carvings, and images of their god or many gods to worship. We learn today that an idol may not only be something you can see or touch but can also be something intangible, such as our jobs, children, spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, or money. God is unseen but has given us the perfect image of Himself in His Son, Jesus. What we love most influences who we become. *The more we love God, the more we reflect His image in the world.*

KEY POINTS

1) **We make idols for ourselves when:**

- *We look to something/someone to do what only God can do!* We look to our jobs, money, and/or relationships to fulfill us, but only God can truly fulfill us. Yet we keep looking for the visible things to do so.
- *We love the gifts more than the gift-giver!* God is a jealous god (Ex.20:5) and never wants His children to want or love His gifts more than Him. When we think about our jobs, children, spouses, etc. we ought to praise God for them. The moment we allow these things to become the center of our greatest love, it will result in our us serving them—enslaving us to them.

2) **When we make idols for ourselves:**

- *We hurt God.* He created us, rescued us, and sent His Son to die for us because He loves us. Unlike any other god, we have the unique power to break His heart when we reject Him.
- *We hurt others.* There are consequences for rejecting God (Ex.20:5-6). The sins of the parents fall upon their children, BUT so long as we're breathing, it's never too late to break these cycles of sin.

3) **God declares:**

- *I have made you in My image.* There's no need for you to make an image for yourselves because I have made you in MY image. (Gen. 1:27)
- *Jesus is My perfect image.* (Col. 1:15)
- *The Church is to reflect Jesus.* (1 Pet. 2:9) We, His Church, have the ability to reflect Jesus, God's perfect image, by welcoming the sinner, loving the unloved, feeding the hungry, etc.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** Is there anything in your life that you would NOT give up if God asked you to? Have you ever worked so hard to achieve happiness only to find out that once you achieved that "thing," you were still left wanting? Please explain.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** The sins of the parents fall upon their children. Is there a cycle of sin that runs through the generations of both sides of your family? How have you taken steps to break the sin-cycle in your generation? What steps could you take if you haven't done so already?
- 3) **DO** Identify at least one way you can uniquely show others the goodness of God in your every day life. Identify them then practice them! Also, we have been challenged to read Exodus 1-20.

PRAYER

This week, identify the gifts that God has given you and praise Him from Whom ALL blessings flow. Continue to lift up the prayers of your group, our church, and the needs of the world.