

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty to God (Part 3):

Commandment One Concerns God's Being—Never Believe in False Gods, Exodus 20:3

All generations of people are to follow Christ and obey Him. They are to obey all that Christ is, which includes the **Ten Commandments**—the **Ten Commandments** plus so much more.

Deuteronomy 5:29 (NASB)

²⁹ Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NASB)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

⁵ "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

⁶ "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

⁷ "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Joshua 23:6 (NASB)

⁶ Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,

Matthew 5:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Luke 21:33 (NASB)

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

3. (Exodus 20:3) Obedience— Commandments, The Ten: What is forbidden by this first commandment, “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3)?

How is this commandment broken, violated? This commandment concerns God's being. God is declaring that He alone is the *Supreme Being*, the absolute authority of the universe. There is no other *supreme being*, no other god who created and who rules and reigns over the universe. He alone is the **LORD**, the only living and true God, the only living and true Creator.

Note that God makes three stringent demands, three clear requirements in this commandment.

1. Man is to have no other gods, none whatsoever (Exodus 20:3).

Sunday School-Ten Commandments (1) Exodus 20:3

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- a. Man is not to set himself up as a god. Man is not to believe that he himself nor any other being or energy in the universe is the ultimate source of the universe.
1. Man is not to deny God, declaring there is no God (**atheism**).
 2. Man is not to question God, saying God may exist but He also may not exist (**agnosticism**).
 3. Man is not to declare that man himself is the **Supreme Being**, the ultimate authority of his world (**humanism**).
 4. Man is not to look to science and technology as the ultimate power in life (**secularism**).
 5. Man is not to hold that his own knowledge and reasoning ability are the ultimate control of the universe.
 6. Man is not to believe that the spirit of man (the combined spirit of all men) is the ultimate energy of the universe.
 7. Man is not to proclaim some impersonal mass, energy, or gas in the universe as *the force* behind all things.
- b. Man is not to believe that other **beings, animals, or material things** are God.

Man is not to look in the sky above nor in the earth below nor in the sea and its depths and declare that something therein is God.

1. Man is not to look at the sky and declare the heavenly bodies and beings to be the supreme force of the universe: not the **sun, moon, stars, angels, principalities, powers** nor any other **creature** of any **world** or any **dimension** of **being**.
 2. Man is not to look at the earth nor at some material substance of the earth and declare it to be God.
 3. Man is not to look upon animals as some god, no matter what the animal is.
 4. Man is not to consider the physical mass nor energy nor gases that comprise the basic substance of things as a god: not the **atoms, protons, neutrons**, nor whatever the **most minute building-block** of existence may be.
- c. Man is not to believe in many gods (**polytheism**). There is only one living and true God, only one true **Creator**, only one **LORD** and **Majesty** of the universe (**monotheism**).

Therefore, man is to have no other gods whatsoever.

All other so-called gods are nothing more than.....

1. things created by the imaginations and thoughts of people
2. things called gods by people
3. things that are lifeless and powerless
4. things that are only images made out of metal, wood, stone, chemicals, or dirt