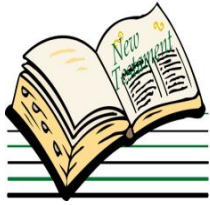


# Sermon Notes



Title: "The Second Commandment and Images"

Text: Exodus 20:1-6

Theme: God tells us not to make images, and certainly not to worship Him in or through them. We must not think an image of one's imagination improves upon the Word of God and its proclamation.

## I. More Work on the Text of Exodus 20:4-6

- Two Crucial Ways This Commandment is Subverted:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ an image to \_\_\_\_\_  
God
2. \_\_\_\_\_ an image in acts of \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Applying the Second Commandment to the Issue of Images Today

- A. ... the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by Himself, and so limited by His own revealed will, that He may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, **under any** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture. [WCF 21.1b]

- B. *The sins forbidden in the second commandment are ... the making any representation of God, of all or of \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever.* [WLC 109]

- C. Response to the Contention that the Prohibition of the Second Commandment Only Covers \_\_\_\_\_

- D. Response to the Contention that \_\_\_\_\_ Images Are Inevitable

**Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:**

1. What is the significant structure about verses 4 and 5 that indicates two crucial ways this commandment may be undermined?
2. Based on this structure what are the two crucial ways this commandment may be subverted?
3. How do many people read this commandment so as to limit the scope of this Second Commandment?
4. What is the problem with understanding this commandment in such a limited way?
5. Does the Second Commandment prohibit representational art in itself? Why or why not?
6. The matter of images or pictures of Jesus has been a point of difference in the Church for many years especially during the “image wars” of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries and then again in the period of the Reformation. Why do you think this has been such a major point of contention? How should these differences be handled?
7. Do you think it is right or proper for images of God to be made to teach children about what God is like? Can images or pictures be made of any of the three persons of God for this purpose? Why or why not? How can our children learn about God without the use of pictures or images of Deity?
8. What does it mean that the didactic cannot be separated from the doxological?
9. How should we handle the images that arise in our minds when we read about descriptions of the persons of the Godhead in the Bible?
10. Why does this issue matter? How essential to the Gospel is this particular issue?