

DUTIES REQUIRED BY THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

February 23, 2020

Deuteronomy 6:1-25

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart.” Deuteronomy 6:4-6

1. The first commandment requires that everyone believe in God. It forbids atheism. Unbelief is the damning sin. “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Psalm 14:1-3).
2. The first commandment requires that everyone believe God’s Word. It forbids agnosticism. One does not believe in God if he does not believe what God says. “. . . They received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (II Thessalonians 2:10b-12).
3. The first commandment requires that everyone believe in God alone. It forbids polytheism. “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might . . . Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 13-14).
4. The first commandment requires that everyone trust God and His Word. Belief in God may be a mere affirmation, which does not embrace Him or take Him as your own. “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar” (James 2:19-21).
5. The first commandment requires that everyone submit to God and His Word. The violation of any one of the Ten Commandments is a violation of the first commandment.
6. The first commandment requires that everyone love God with an all-consuming, undivided love. Jesus was asked, “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” (Matthew 22:36-38).
7. The first commandment requires that everyone worship the one true God. “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:8-10). Worship and service to God are of greater worth than all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory.