

Ten Commandments (Part 14)
(The Second Commandment – Part 3)

Exodus 20:4-6

I. A Comprehensive Prohibition Stated (v. 4)

-פְּסֹלִים: graven image; something crafted by a tool (Leviticus 19:4; 26:1; Deuteronomy 27:15; Psalm 97:7); תְּמוּנָה: likeness, form, image

-The 2nd Commandment doesn't categorically prohibit representational art, photos, sculpture, or jewelry; only cultic images (1 Samuel 7:12; Exodus 31:1-11; 1 Kings 6, 7; Isaiah 61:10).

II. The Comprehensive Prohibition Qualified (v. 5a)

-Image worship is wrong because it is foolish (Isaiah 44:9-20).

-Image worship is wrong because God is Spirit and therefore cannot be represented by visible, physical images (John 4:24; Luke 24:39; 1 Timothy 6:16; Deuteronomy 4:15-20).

-Image worship is wrong because it dishonors God by failing to recognize His sovereignty (1 Samuel 4), His majesty (Exodus 32:4; 1 Kings 12:28), and His love (Deuteronomy 5:29; 6:24).

-Images are finite, made by humans, imply control, need to be cared for, are visible.

III. A Compelling Motivation Appended (vs. 5b, 6)

-God is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14; Numbers 25:11; Deuteronomy 4:24; Joshua 24:19; 1 Kings 14:22; Psalm 78:58; 79:5; Nahum 1:2; Zechariah 8:2; 1 Corinthians 10:22; James 4:5).

-God's jealousy is His zeal to protect His relationship with His people, and to avenge it when it's threatened or broken.

-God's jealousy moves Him to judge (v. 5b).

-God's jealousy moves Him to bless (v. 6).

Practical Lessons

- 1) Do you make God jealous?
- 2) Don't think that you can blame your sins on your parents.
- 3) God's jealousy for us calls us to be jealous for God.
- 4) Here is a clear, practical readout as to how love for God is expressed.
- 5) The choices we make about the worship of God have the potential to profoundly influence our children after us.
- 6) Focus your faith upon the free and sovereign grace of God.