

HC Q&A94-95 – Worship the One True God Alone

Brethren in Christ:

You must show you are a Christian by doing *good work*.

You must do your good work from faith in Christ, for the glory of Christ, and according to the *law of Christ*.

So what is *God's law*? The ten commands.

God's law, the ten commands, is *divided into 2 tables*.

The 1st table teaches you how to *love God*.

The first law of the first table teaches to *worship God alone* – evidence of your love.

Our headings are:

Prescriptions of Law 1

Prohibitions of Law 1

Our goals are: That because you were created and re-created in Jesus, you will acknowledge God is the only God of heaven and earth, and you will trust and worship him only.

94 Q. WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE IN THE FIRST COMMANDMENT?

A. That I, not wanting to endanger my very salvation, avoid and shun all idolatry, magic, superstitious rites, and prayer to saints or to other creatures. That I sincerely acknowledge the only true God, trust him alone, look to him for every good thing humbly and patiently, love him, fear him, and honor him with all my heart. In short, that I give up anything rather than go against his will in any way.

Prescriptions of the Law

1. This command requires you to sincerely acknowledge this one true God – Yahweh, with your mouth.

You will confess that all other gods are liars and fakes, but Yahweh is real.

Deuteronomy 26:17 "Today you have proclaimed the LORD to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice.

2. This command requires you to trust in Yahweh, the one and only true God.

a. You have reasons to trust him. Look how this trust is expressed by Jeremiah: God is your Creator and Re-Creator in Jesus.

Jeremiah 14:22 Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? **Are You not He, O LORD our God?** Therefore we will wait for You, Since **You have made all these.**

b. Your trust in him should be so strong you would be willing to give up everything rather than go against his will. You would be willing to give up your most treasured body part or your parents, or a job, or an ungodly relationship...if it were necessary. In other words, **trusting God is a lot more than talk.**

Matthew 5: 29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

c. Since God in whom you trust is the only true God, those who don't trust in Yahweh have a fake god. Allah is not the God of the Bible. Buddha is not God. Buddha didn't even claim to be God, but was made to be like a god by his followers. Krishna is not God. Hear the words of the Bible:

Isaiah 43:10 "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. **Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.**

d. Since there is only one true God in whom you are to trust, you are warned not to indulge in syncretism – trying to harmonize true faith with false religions.

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. 6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. 7 **"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,** And whose hope is the LORD.

3. Trusting in Yahweh requires faith...by which you are renewed; only a heart renewed by faith trusts in the Lord.

a. That faith you then have will make you look to him for all things good and patiently wait for his timing.

You will look and wait in anticipation as a maid looks to her mistress.

b. That faith you then have will make you love him, something you are commanded to do.

Matthew 22:37 – Jesus said to him, "‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

So you have to learn how to love God by studying him. Because of sin you don't know how to properly love. You need to train yourself. Love is summarized in obedience.

c. That faith you then have will make you fear him. This fear is an action...deep reverence.

1Peter 1:17 - And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your **stay here in fear;**

d. That faith you then have will make you honor and worship him.

Malachi 1:6 "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence?"

Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Psalms 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Love, honor, fear, and honor must be done with all your heart, not just with your actions.

e. That faith in the only true God, you will make you ask him to give you what is good for you to do his work.

Psalm 104: 27 These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season. 28 What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good.

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...

But this looking to God is not to demand good things, but it is a desire for good things with humility.

Knowing that God is the one and only God, you **will not try to make a deal with God**, but take what comes from his hand... whether you like it or not.

(You will not say: “Lord, **if you help me pass my exams, I will go to church more!**” or, “Lord, **if you help me to find the right wife, I will worship you.**”)

Prohibition of the Law

1. You must not have any other god before Yahweh’s face – which is idolatry.

The word “you” is in the singular, to point you to the fact this law is personally directed. No one is exempted.

95 Q. WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

A. Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in his Word.

Egyptians were known for having at least 10 famous gods matching the 10 plagues God put on Egypt. As Israel was leaving Egypt, God wanted this to be foremost in their minds so they wouldn’t follow the example of the idolatrous Egyptians.

2. What are examples of idolatry?

a. Being superstitious is idolatry. If you believe things like the stars, four-leaf clovers, charms or black cats on Friday the 13th can affect what happens to you, you are idolatrous. Either you have a weak faith or no faith at all.

b. Polytheism is not religious, but idolatrous. Believing that all religions and gods are more or less the same is wrong. Don’t tolerate it. No good man would say to his wife: “I love you, but I love another woman also.”

1Chronicles 16:26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

c. Pride is idolatry. If you have an exaggerated view of yourself, thinking you are strong and able enough to save yourself, that is idolatry.

d. Covetousness is idolatry. When you making a god of money or possessions, like the rich young man in Matthew 19, you are guilty of idolatry.

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person,

nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

e. Knowledge can become a god if you think knowledge can secure your future.

f. Making men (instead of God) lord of your consciences is to make idols of men.

g. Being lukewarm is idolatry of yourself, since God demands wholehearted devotion.

h. Acting presumptuously as the Devil urged Jesus to jump off the temple to force God to send his angels to catch him – that was idolatry.

i. Giving glory to any creature or person that belongs to God is idolatry. All good things come from God and he should get the credit. (Learn to say: I thank God for you!)

j. Praying to dead people or angels is idolatry.

Revelation 22:8-9 ... And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

You can only pray through Jesus. **Every other prayer goes to deaf ears and is a sin.** God will bring judgment on those who try to think they can pray in any other way or to any other God.

k. Sensuality...that which makes a god of your body, is idolatry.

Philippians 3:18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame...

l. Civility, morality, and neutrality are North American idolatry. Politeness-doing things orderly can become a substitute for God. **Civility can become god to families raising children.** Remember this!

m. Duty can become idolatrous - like Abraham who saw his duty to his starving family, but forgot to trust in Yahweh God, or like Elimelech who ran from

Bethlehem to Moab for food, not believing God could provide a feast in the desert.

n. Children can become gods if they determine what is right or wrong for you...like if you will come to worship. I've heard people say: I want to come to worship, but my child doesn't want to. Idolatry!

o. Praising fortune, fortune telling, and witchcraft are idolatry. Some say: "You really have good luck." Fate is your god if you do this. Reading horoscopes is idolatry.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens or a sorcerer, 11 "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

p. You can make wealth into an idol if you love it like the rich young ruler.

Conclusion:

God requires faith, faith that results in love and obedience. God forbids lack of faith in him that results in idolatry and hell.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Don't make a god of your body, your wealth, your knowledge, your job, your duties, your children, or your nationality, for they too will be destroyed. Instead, **trust, love, and honor Yahweh** God with all your heart for he is the one true God of heaven and earth and the one who saves you through faith in his Son.

2. You will face many pressures today at school, at work, or among family and friends to treat all gods as the same or replace God with something else. Yahweh will destroy every other god. So hold your ground in the one true God. Be willing to say to those who pressure you to minimize or replace God: "Without trusting in the God of the Bible you are as good as dead and damned to eternal destruction."

3. Show them the salvation they could have in Jesus, the only means by which they could worship Yahweh! Show them the salvation you have!

Finally, I challenge you like Joshua did the Israelites: There is no God but Yahweh. Will you serve him? You have to choose. Everything else in this world fails, but Yahweh never fails. But if you shun him...his anger is as great as his love...and who can save you then?