

Ten Commandments (Part 15)
(The Second Commandment – Part 4)

Exodus 20:4-6

I. A Comprehensive Prohibition Stated (v. 4)

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

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

→What is forbidden by the 2nd Commandment?

-Idolatry: devotion to a person or thing that belongs to God alone

→What makes something (an image, a thing, or a person) an idol?

-The significance attached to it by an individual (1 Corinthians 8:4-7). We make idols of people and things by the love, loyalty, and devotion we give to them.

Calvin (Institutes I:XI:8): *“Man’s nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols...The spirit of man begets the idolatrous image. His hand gives it birth...Whoever sets up idols revolts against the true God.”*

→Why are we so prone to idolatry?

-Sin (Romans 1:25): Sin has poisoned us and twisted us so that we worship what is created instead of the Creator. Idolatry involves exchanging the truth of God for a lie.

Practical Lessons

1) Idolatry comes in a wide variety of sizes and shapes, brands and styles.

2) Idolaters will have no part or portion with the righteous in the life to come.

3) In Christ alone is pardon for the sin of idolatry, and grace to resist the power of idolatry.