

Ten Commandments (Part 16)  
(The Second Commandment – Part 5)

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment?

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

→What about pictures of Jesus?

-Historical Survey

1) Early Church [Irenaeus; Eusebius of Caesarea; Epiphanius, bishop of Salamis]

2) Medieval Church [Serenus, bishop of Marseille and Pope Gregory (late 6<sup>th</sup> century);  
iconoclasts and iconodules: Leo III (725); Hieria (753); Nicaea (787); reversal (815);  
Theodora (843)]

3) Reformation Church [Calvin; Luther; Heidelberg Catechism; Westminster Standards]

4) Modern Church [Second Vatican Council (1963)]

-Factors to Ponder

1) Central Obligation: dissociate worship from all pictures of Jesus; see Him in the Word

2) The Intended Likeness of the Picture

3) The Intended Use of the Picture

-Concluding Counsels

1) Our corporate practice as the gathered church must respect the consciences of weaker brothers and sisters (Romans 14:3, 21; 1 Corinthians 8:13).

2) Our private practice in the home must be neither carelessly flaunted nor carnally judged (Romans 14:3).

3) Where there is disagreement, let humility and love prevail in resolving the issue.

4) Christ must be the only image that we worship (Colossians 1:15; 2:9).