

## **This is the Law: No Other Gods**

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. (1 John 5:21)

- (1) In the Old Testament: And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth (Ex 20:1-5).
  - (a) Deut 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
  - (b) Deut 10:12-13 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?"
  - (c) Deut 30:6-7 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.
- (2) In the New Testament: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matt 22:36-40).
  - (a) Heb 10:16-17 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."
  - (b) 1 John 5:2-5 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
- (3) The command to shun idolatry has not been abrogated.
  - (a) 1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.
  - (b) 1 Cor 10:7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."
  - (c) 1 Cor 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.
  - (d) 1 Cor 6:9-11 Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters ...will inherit the kingdom of God.

- (e) Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry...I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
  - (f) Col 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
  - (g) Matt 22:38 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment."
- (4) The WCF Question 105: What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?
- Answer: The sins forbidden in the first commandment are, atheism, in denying or not having a God; idolatry, in having or worshiping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God; the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; the omission or neglect of anything due to him, required in this commandment; ignorance, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; bold and curious searching into his secrets; all profaneness, hatred of God; self-love, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part; vain credulity, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments, hardness of heart, pride, presumption, carnal security, tempting of God; using unlawful means, and trusting in lawful means; carnal delights and joys; corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal; lukewarmness, and deadness in the things of God; estranging ourselves, and apostatizing from God; praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures; all compacts and consulting with the devil, and hearkening to his suggestions; making men the lords of our faith and conscience; slighting and despising God and his commands; resisting and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature.
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