

Primary/Prologue Stuff

Because I have two weeks...

The Greatest Commandment?

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And [Jesus] 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.**”

Matthew 22:35-40

- Where is “love your neighbor” in the commandments?
- 1 Command: Love the Lord with all your heart/mind/soul
 - 10 Expositions:
 - Honor God rightly (with 5 commands of exposition)
 - Honor your neighbor (with 5 commands of exposition)
 - All the rest of ‘The Law’ is further exposition...

The Important Thing- *Gospel*

- The Gospel, not Legalism
 - This is ***not*** a legalistic discussion.
 - Legalism pins our hope on obedience
 - We pin ***ALL*** our hope on the Cross of Christ.
 - “I am saved, therefore I obey.”
 - A right understanding of the Gospel works itself out in obedience. (2 Peter 1:5-11)
 - If we put obedience before the Cross, we’re ***doomed***.

Humility, not Hubris

- Rightly understanding the Gospel humbles, not exalts.
 - I am saved by God and have zero room for boasting...
 - ... except in the Cross of Christ.
 - Galatians 6:14
 - Whatever I have/enjoy/receive/endure is a blood-bought grace from Christ.
- 2 Timothy 2:15-26
 - HUMBLY sanctify ourselves for God

Correcting the RCC, not bashing

- As Jim noted, this is a command the RCC 'reorganizes' ...
- The Catholics and Protestants are still miles and miles apart...
 - Salvation: “Faith Alone!” vs “Faith and...”
 - The Bible: “Scripture Alone!” vs “Scripture and...”
 - Mediators: “Christ Alone!” vs “Christ and...” (1Tim 2:5-6)
 - etc etc etc etc etc etc
- We are still miles apart, **but woe to us if we get uppity about any of it.**

The 2nd Commandment

“Finally, he’s going to get on with the lesson!”

The 2nd Commandment

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. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:4-6; Deut 5:8-10 (ESV)

The 2nd Commandment

- Two parts:
 - The Command:
 - *“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. You shall not bow down to them or serve them...”*
 - The Reason:
 - *“... for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”*

What do you think of?



Good Ol' Testament Idolatry

- Exodus 32:1-6 (Notice the setting...)
 - The Israelites were making idols to represent Yahweh, not some pagan gods.
 - They were breaking the 2nd commandment, not the first.
- 1 Kings 12:25-29
 - “I don’t want them going to Jerusalem, so...”
- 1 Kings 16:30-33
 - Ahab decided to go for the gusto, as it were.

The 2nd Commandment

- What does this command require?
 - “That we in no [way] represent God by images, nor worship him in any other way than he has commanded in his word.”
- So, should we make any images at all?
 - “God neither can, nor may be represented by any means: but as to creatures; though they may be represented, yet God forbids to make, or have any resemblance of them, either in order to worship them or to serve God by them.”

The 2nd Commandment

- Proper worship of Yahweh in view...
 - Not improper worship of false gods.
- Why prohibit images? Because they:
 - Distort God's freedom
 - Bottle-up the deity in an image...
 - Distort God's majesty
 - What image would do God justice?
 - Distort God's Covenant with Israel/us
 - God vowed to be with the Israelites.

Why no images of God?

“[W]e could say that Israel’s sin lay not in wanting to see (something of) Yahweh – for even Moses wanted that – but in seeking to satisfy her longing to see and to touch, in a stubborn and disobedient manner.” (p.47)

“They were not interested in making the Invisible One visible, but in making the Incomprehensible One comprehensible.” (p.45)

“Yahweh is not tangible to Israel, as the idols of the pagans are to their devotees; but on the other hand, there is no god as close to his people as Yahweh is to Israel... Thus, it is not only His majesty, but also His intimacy with Israel that makes the manufacture of images such a reproach.” (p.42)

So, are these graven images?



What about this?



Do we set up graven images?
And if so, how?

More next week...