

# 10 Words of Grace. A Study of the Ten Commandments.

Week #3: Exodus 20. No idols.

September 30, 2018

If you asked your neighbor what they thought of the 10 Commandments, you would probably get two responses. The first is that they are generally a good set of rules to follow. The second, however, would be that they have little if any idea of what the Commandments specifically say - people generally know they allude to 'the golden rule', but really don't know much more than that.

Most of us don't think about the Commandments much anymore ... if we're honest, we might say that they make us feel a bit guilty about our behavior. This fall, however, I want to challenge us to look at them *not* as a set of guilt-inducing Commands, but rather as words of grace from our loving Father in Heaven. Let's learn to see them as a beautiful mountain range that stands vigil over us generation after generation. And let us more importantly see that they point us carefully to God's grace poured out in Jesus Christ. *The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.* (Galatians 3:24).

## Questions: #2 - No idols

1. Ken explained that the 1<sup>st</sup> Command forbids the *existence* of other gods, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Command forbids the *creation* of other gods. The former can be stumbled into, while the latter is a deliberate act of the will. Breaking the 2<sup>nd</sup> Command is what the Israelites did in creating the golden calf while Moses was receiving the Commands on Mt. Sinai (Ex 32).
  - Why do people, regardless of time, place or education, *deliberately* create idols?
  - Name some of the idols of our time. What are the idols particularly evident within Canadian culture? How did they develop, and what is behind them?
2. Idols tend to focus on human pleasure (Baal), wealth (Mammon) and power (Molech)
  - List the television shows & movies you have seen in the past 3 months that derive much of their entertainment value from human pleasure, wealth and/or power.
  - Which of these three do you struggle with more than the other two?
3. Idols destroy lives by distracting us, eating us alive, altering us and ultimately disappointing us.
  - Choose an idol common to our times and discuss how it *distracts, eats, alters & disappoints*. Ponder privately the idol you are struggling with, identifying these points.
4. Idols limit God. They really are an attempt to displace God from His natural & rightful place.
  - Would you rather have a god you can control, or one you can't?
  - What are the challenges of each?
5. Worshipping our Creator God, the Father or our Lord Jesus Christ, leads committed Christians to live differently within the culture of their day.
  - Take stock of your life today. How are you rejecting the idols of your life in order to put God in His rightful place? How does your Life Group help you worship God alone?
  - What regrets are you carrying because of personal idolatry? Will you confess these to God and receive His forgiveness and healing?
  - Read Malachi 6:6-8. How might you practice acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly before God?
6. Memorize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment this week.