

Worship God His Way

Scripture: Exodus 20:4-6
(09-27-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

The second commandment warns we are not to make images to represent God in any form. No image will capture God's glory. Every man-made representation of the Divine will be so far less than God as to incite his jealousy. If the first commandment is against worshiping the wrong God, the second commandment is against worshiping God in the wrong way.

The golden calf is the clearest example (Exo 32). Aaron proclaimed a feast to Yahweh. The people declared that it was the golden calf who brought them up out of Egypt. The Israelites weren't worshiping Baal. They were trying to worship the Lord their God, but they were doing it in the wrong way. It's not hard to see why idolatry was so attractive and why Israel was constantly tempted to adopt the same practices. The worship of the world is guaranteed, selfish, easy, convenient, normal, logical, pleasing, indulgent, and erotic. It is a religious system made by men, and for men.

How then should we worship God (1) relationally, not formally; Do you truly love Him? (2) biblically; Is it God's way or your way? (3) in Christ; Do you know Him, love Him, serve Him. That's ultimate worship.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. The Second Commandment forbids 'self-willed' worship. What is it? How is the prohibition in the commandment demonstrated by the golden calf incident in Exodus 32?
2. According to the message, worship according to the world is attractive to us for nine reasons. Which of these do you find most challenging personally?
3. How should you worship God? What change or difference should the second commandment have in how you worship?