

Commandment #1: You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me

God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. *You shall have no other gods before me.*" (Exodus 20:1-3 NLT)

Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." (Psalm 14:1 NLT)

Definition: "gods" are anything to which we give our devotion, service, and energy

"Whatever the heart clings to, whatever thy heart relies upon, that is properly thy god."
(Martin Luther)

Do not follow other gods, the gods of the people around you... (Deuteronomy 6:14 NIV)

What are some "gods" that vie for our attention and devotion?

(priorities/passions/practices)

- 1) Money**
- 2) Pleasure**
- 3) Technology**
- 4) Fame**
- 5) Others' Opinions**
- 6) Knowledge**
- 7) Issues**
- 8) Substances**
- 9) Work**
- 10) Family**

Paul: "Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey?"
(Romans 6:16a NLT)

Jesus: "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other." (Matthew 6:33 NLT)

LET GOD BE GOD

There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6-7 NLT)

Discussion Questions

- 1) Do you know anyone who doesn't believe in a Divine Being? What is their reasoning?

- 2) How are our lives influenced by the "gods" we worship? In what ways do we become like them? Can you give any specific examples?

- 3) Theologian J. I Packer writes, "Your god is what you love, seek, worship, serve, and allow to control you." Besides the ones listed, what are some other "gods" in our society and culture? Which one(s) are you most tempted to follow?

- 4) We all have to balance a variety of loyalties. What are some of the duties and obligations that you have to fulfill? Are any of them in conflict with your devotion to God? How do they prevent you from giving the Lord your undivided loyalty? What could you do differently to insure God gets first place in your life?

- 5) Consider this practice: In his book on the Ten Commandments, Stuart Briscoe says, "At the end of each day, ask yourself: Was Jesus Christ my Lord today? Did I serve him faithfully today? Did I love him deeply? Did I worship him exclusively?"