

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Exodus 32:15-29

July 1, 2018

What part of “*You shall have no other gods*” don’t you understand?

- How quickly people forget - a mob can turn blind and ugly
- This event - only a month or so after God spoke from the mountain - Ex. 20
 - ♦ ² “*I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*”
 - ♦ ³ “*You shall have no other gods besides me.*”
 - ♦ ⁴ “*You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.*” ⁵ “*You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,*” ⁶ “*but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*”
 - ♦ Trembling Israel said to Moses: ^{20:19} “*Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.*”
 - ♦ ^{24:3} “*When Moses went and told the people all the LORD’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.”*”
- ❖ Israel’s syncretism: *attempted amalgamation of different religions*
 - Feared leaderless - demanded Aaron to make a god to go before them
 - The calf - Apis, a chief god of Egypt - “worship” borrowed from pagans
 - Aaron says of the calf: “*This is your god, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.*”... “*Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.*”

What part of “*You shall have no other gods*” don’t you understand?

- Israel’s claim: *But we’re worshiping Yahweh.*
- No! Yahweh was clear: **No images to worship.**
- Doctrine/teaching & practice reveal the god you worship.
 - ♦ The idol - praising the idol for delivering them from Egypt. Insult!
 - Party worship - you can’t praise God satisfying sinful desires.
 - Worship needs to be God-pleasing - not people-pleasing!
 - ♦ Mindset/thinking - life seen through corrupted mind/heart/eyes
 - Imposes fallen human thinking on God thinking he should be happy
 - Man-made religion is self-worship - pride/giving self the glory

What part of “*You shall have no other gods*” don’t you understand?

- ❖ Religious syncretism - a popular infection and delusion of our time too!
 - Common claim: *We all worship the same God, only by different names.*
 - ♦ Sounds so nice, so inclusive, so open-minded.
 - ♦ Satan’s deception covering up God’s unique identity and glory.
 - ♦ The Most High only and only Living God reveals his name
 - ♦ God is justly jealous. He alone deserves the glory/title God.
 - ♦ God’s name/reputation: defined by deeds and doctrines.
 - Accommodations to differing doctrines: *It’s a matter of interpretation.*
 - ♦ No doctrine is a matter of interpretation! God’s word is clear.
 - ♦ Genuine questions of interpretation **never** impact doctrine.
 - ♦ Doctrinal deviations - human opinion based on *I think vs. God says*
 - Where there’s a doctrinal difference - trace it back to the source
 - Scripture interpreting Scripture vs. people interpreting Scripture

What part of “*You shall have no other gods*” don’t you understand?

- ❖ Check your loyalties. They reveal your core value - your real God.
 - Common claim: *Family is everything. Blood is thicker than water.*
 - ♦ The strong desire to love and respect family
 - ♦ Family, a gift from God - but not god! - *The god of the family.*
 - Family didn’t make you. It was God’s tool. He made you.
 - Can your family save you and give you eternal life? No!
 - Devotion to family members over God is idolatry.
 - ♦ The Levites stood the test - devoted to Yahweh over close family.
 - ♦ But kill? Israel was unique - theocracy: God ruled state and church
 - A direct and specific command from the LORD = zeal for covenant
 - 3,000 out of 2 million - those demonstrating impenitence
 - ♦ Corporal or capital punishment are **not** the tools of the Church today
 - Child of God - followers of Jesus - our treasured identity
 - ♦ Above all prize God, our Savior and Lord - source of life and all good
 - ♦ Treat Jesus as the source of all good and blessings.
 - ♦ Give him glory, treating him as your God.
 - Stand in awe of his nature, his work, and his grace. Respect his word.
 - Treasure his love, forgiveness, adoption, promises, & faithfulness.
 - Trust his promise to be our God - protector, provider, promises
 - Above all else. To know him - Why would you want any other god?

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