

The First Three Commandments: Recognizing the Value of God

Exodus 20:1-7

March 8, 2023

Purpose of the Commandments

That God's glory would spread and cover all the earth

- Habakkuk 2:14
- Deuteronomy 4:5-8

The Order of the Commandments

Commandments 1-4 - Your relationship with God

- John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- 1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Commandments 5-10 - Your relationship with others

- Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
- Mark 7:21-22 - For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

1st Commandment - You shall have no other gods before[a] me.

"For when we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything." -G.K. Chesterton

We worship what we deem brings us value.

2nd Commandment - You shall not make for yourself a carved image or bow down to or serve one.

This commands warns us against having the wrong object of worship and against worshiping the wrong way.

- Psalm 106:19-21

God's jealousy and supremacy is highlighted

- Exodus 34:14

Further teaching on idolatry

- Ephesians 5:3-5 - Coveting is Idolatry...Why?
- Romans 1:18-25

3rd Commandment - You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

The expectation here is not merely to not use God's name improperly, but the emphasis is to rightly represent him.

God's name is tied to His glory - Exodus 33:18-20, 34:5-8