

## The Ten Commandments.



### **Word 1: No other gods.**

*“You shall have no other gods before Me” (Ex. 20:3). God is one (Deut. 6:4) and unique (Deut. 4:38, 39), and therefore belief in and worship of other so-called gods is out of the question. Since God’s character forms the basis of the covenant with His people, He demands absolute loyalty. And when the intent of the heart is to put God first, a person’s outward actions will reveal it. Then others will see what God’s character is like through the actions of His people.*

Here we are at the first of all the commandments, and the penultimate in our series which has led us to the heart of things; making sure we worship the right God, and no one or anything else. To fully understand verse 3, verses 1 & 2 are helpful in setting the context of a covenant between God and His people.

See Deut.4:35 & 39 and Luke 4:8

In today's culture of anything goes (except emphatic statements), the belief that there is one supreme God seems to be less and less popular, especially in an age that holds tolerance and pluralism to be among the highest of values.

- 1 How can we make this statement (commandment) real to the people of today, without starting from the position of the Bible (which would not be accepted by a non-believer)?

This first commandment sets the foundation of the previous nine commandments we have studied. It is a command that puts life in its' proper order. It establishes God as supreme

and mankind as His creation. It brings into focus the very purpose of mankind. This command is the root from which a personal relationship with God can be experienced.

- 2 Who or what is at the centre of our lives?
- 3 If religion is defined as ‘that which gives life meaning and purpose’, what are the main ‘religions’ in today?

There are many gods in the world, some even act as focus for other religions. Christianity is the only faith that claims one true God, through a personal relationship. He is revealed to us through Jesus. In Jesus, we see what God is really like.

- 4 How is God real to you in your relationship, what does this mean to you, and how are you able to demonstrate this day to day?

We are given the picture of who God is in Ex.20:2. In giving His name (YHWH) He describes Himself as ‘I Am’, the one who brings all things into being. Translated into English as ‘The Lord’. The Lord **your** God. The one ‘who brought you out of the land of slavery’. God establishes His bond and sets His people free, we are redeemed. The commandments then, are fundamental in ensuring we are right with God.

- 5 How have you seen God show His power in situations where you have challenged idolatry?

See Isa.42:8

- 6 Spend some time reviewing the learning’s from the previous studies, use these to encourage one another, and don’t be afraid to share any misgivings. Then spend some time in praise and prayer.