

Series: Striving Together For the Faith as a Family

NO OTHER GODS

EXODUS 20:3

Text: Exodus 20:3

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³ *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Introduction:

The author of the law determines the importance and the priority of the law. The higher the rank of the one giving the law, the higher the rank of the law.

Thus since God is the author of the law given these laws are the supreme laws for mankind.

If we are going to have families that honor the Lord we must be willing first to obey the Lord.

It was the Lord who stated:

John 14:15

¹⁵ *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

As we looked last week at Moses farewell letter and how that he reminded the children of Israel if they wanted the blessings of the Lord that they needed to rehearse and remember the law of God.

Today I want us to consider the first of what we know as the Ten Commandments.

Note:

1. A PROCLAMATION

Exodus 20:2

² ***I am the LORD thy God***, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

This is a statement regarding the reality of God.

Nowhere does the Bible attempt to prove God's existence. The Bible simply asserts His existence.

Genesis 1:1

¹ *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

So how is God's existence known?

A. By Creation

Psalm 19:1

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Romans 1:20

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

In other words, you can see the invisible God by looking at visible creation. Everything you see bears the stamp 'made by God.' This is true whether you are looking with your eyes only, thru a microscope, or a telescope.

Illustration:

I look at my watch and say there must have been a designer and maker.

Not only is God's existence seen in "Creation" but also:

B. By Conscience

Go back as far as you want in human history, and you'll see that mankind has always had a need to worship. There has never been a people group anywhere in the

world, from dark jungles to the frozen tundra that was not engaged in some kind of worship. They may not have been worshipping the true and living God, but they were worshipping something. Why, because man has a built in need to worship. It's a universal hunger placed there by God.

Why does man have this innate need to worship? Because God has written it on the wall of every human heart: "There is a God."

Psalm 53:1

¹ The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

In order for an individual to believe that there is no God they have to suppress what God has put in their heart and that's a foolish thing to do.

Notice not only this "Proclamation" but also:

2. THE PLACE

This command is properly the first commandment of all commandments.

If we are going to have families that honor the Lord then we must have the right priorities.

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

We must love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind first if all our other things are going to fall into place.

Notice not only the “Proclamation and Place” but also:

3. A PROHIBITION (VS. 2-3)

Exodus 20:2-3

² I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Israel promised not to worship other gods, but they did.

The calf the Aaron fashioned they worshiped.

They later worshipped the false gods of the Canaanites.

Today we may not bow down to a figure, or an object but it doesn't mean that this commandment is not being violated.

Many people give so much devotion to pleasure, money, physical appetites and popularity that they virtually make these things gods in their lives.

Consider the gods of the pagans and let's compare them with people today.

Note:

- Bacchus – The Roman god of wine.

Tens of millions of Americans are slaves to alcohol, outnumbering addicts of all other drugs. Those who drink bow at this altar. Some say, I'm not an addict, not an alcoholic, I only drink a little now and then in moderation.

To those looking for happiness in a bottle, let me say that there is no joy like the joy of knowing Jesus, and there is no high like the Most High!

- Mammon – The god of money

That's a description of America today? Marriages are being sacrificed on this altar, as are morality and ethics. Children are being sacrificed here as well. We ruin our

health in the pursuit of money, and then spend all our money trying to get back our health!

Many today their god is money and the bank is their temple.

Remember:

Colossians 3:5

⁵ *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness**, which is idolatry:*

Note not only the god of wine and wealth but also:

- Aphrodite – The goddess of sex

She is not the god of love, but of lust.

We are living in a day where perversion is running rampant.

We are inundated with these things through TV, Advertising, Movies, Internet, Magazines, and Billboards.

Note also:

- Minerva – The Roman goddess of wisdom

We are living in a day when many think that they are smarter than God.

2 Timothy 3:7

⁷ *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Romans 1:22

²² *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

Notice not only the “Proclamation, Place and Prohibition” but also:

4. A PLEA

Exodus 20:2

² *I am the LORD **thy** God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

He’s not just A God or even THE God...He’s MY God!
How personal!

To think that the God of this vast universe even knows about me, much less wants to know me more and come into harmony with Him!

How should we respond to His plea:

- Submissively

Matthew 11:25

²⁵ *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.*

It's not because one has a high IQ that God gives enlightenment to but rather the humble and weak.

We can all become humble.

We should also respond to His plea:

- Sincerely

Jeremiah 29:13

¹³ *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

Matthew 6:33

³³ *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Some go away from church empty, because they didn't come for something. They sleep, or tune out. They aren't hungry so they don't eat. We must thirst for him

like our tongue is swollen in a vast desert...that's the person God comes down and really satisfies!

We should also respond to His plea:

- Scripturally

God has revealed Himself in the Bible. We can come face to face with Him by reading it.

Jesus is the Word.

Rom. 10 says that faith comes by hearing the Word.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

To get to the one and only God, Jesus is the way...without Jesus, there's no going.

Jesus is the truth...without Jesus, there's no knowing.

Jesus is the life...without Jesus, there's no living!

Close:

Does God have the right place in our lives? Remember He not one of many but the One and Only!