

Ten: #2 Don't Limit God

(Exodus 20:1-6)

Introduction

How many of you regularly make a "To Do List?" Why?

When you have a list of 8 or 10 items to do for the day and you see 8 or 10 checks by those items, what is your response?

Most religions have a set of rules or checklist to determine if a prospective follower is good enough to go to heaven and/or good enough for their god to like them more that he did before.

In Christianity, some have adopted the Ten Commandments as their checklist. They assume that if they have not robbed a bank, murdered someone, not broken up a marriage, not lied under oath, then God is impressed and they have qualified for heaven or favor from God.

THE 10 COMMANDMENS WERE GIVEN AS CONFIRMATION OF RELATIONSHIP NOT CONDITION OF RELATIONSHIP.

Even though the 10 Commandments were given to Israel, their moral value is timeless to all of God's people.

Contextualize the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20).

I. Warning Against Idols (v. 4-5a)

Principle: By creating a representation of God, you are limiting Him, in your mind, to the qualities of the object you have created.

A) The Essence of the prohibition.

(When you create a representation of God, you are propagating a wrong view of God. An example would be God's sovereignty, God's nature (spirit), and God's omnipresence.)

B) The Nature of the prohibition.

- 1) An idol makes God manageable or dumbs-down God.
- 2) An idol confines Him to a location.
- 3) An idol compartmentalizes Him.

C) The Motive for the prohibition – jealousy

(God does not do this in order to get attention [egomaniac], but rather He knows that your life will work better with Him at the center.)

II. Consequence of Disobedience (v. 4b-5)

Principle: Your decision to hold to and foster a wrong view of God will affect the lives of your descendants for generations to come.

- A) Generational sins.
- B) Generational punishment?
(You are responsible for your own sin.)
- C) Generational consequence!

III. Blessedness of Obedience (v. 6).

Principle: God will bless your family for 1000s of generations when you maintain and propagate a right view of God to your family.

- A) Basis for the blessings
- B) Extent of the blessings
- C) Nature of the blessings

Conclusion