

Command 2 - Have No Graven Images Of God.

June 3, 2018

Has anyone traveled to Europe? I haven't been to Europe recently. In high school, I spent a summer on a mission trip in Switzerland. There were a few occasions that summer where our group had the chance for some sightseeing. I enjoyed touring the small towns but the most exciting and surprising sightseeing experiences were the old Catholic cathedrals.

They were cavernous, filled with color and

dazzled with beauty.



When you walked in the door, you had the sense you entered the presence of God.

This was not the type of church I was familiar with. I grew up Baptist. We had long, straight, wooden pews and white walls. Everything was at a right angle. The pastor's large wooden pulpit was so big he could have a small library of books open in front of him when he preached and the congregation wouldn't know it. It was plain and simple, the exact opposite of the European cathedrals.

I wondered why the old Catholic cathedrals were so beautiful but the Protestant church looked like they fired the architect before he could do anything exciting. Today, we will learn why Catholic and Protestant churches look different. It is not because Protestants fired their architect. It all revolves around the second commandment.

This summer at CrossWinds, we are studying the Ten Commandments. So far we learned all of the commandments were given to us by God for our good and our joy. None of them were given to take away our lives. They were all given to allow us to flourish. After God set his people free from Egypt, he gave them the Ten Commandments to keep them free. When the average person on the street thinks of the Ten Commandments, they think of rules to take away their joy. In reality, they are commandments intended to give us guidance for life, to give us intimacy with God and joy in living.

Last week, we looked at the first commandment. This commandment told us to have no other gods before God. We are to worship the one true God of the universe. We learned that worshipping any other so-called god or giving our affection to any other false religion or deity is either a complete waste of time — Jeremiah says it is like worshipping a scarecrow in a cucumber patch — or it opens us to demonic influence. The Bible tells us multiple times that demons are the animating power behind the false gods of this world. Demons are committed to our destruction, not our life. Expending our energy on any other deity is either a waste of our time or it opens us to demonic influence. This is why the commandments begin by telling us to worship the one true God of the universe and him alone. He loves you. He is committed to you knowing him and enjoying him. He is the source of all life and joy.

While the first commandment tells us to worship the right God, the second commandment tells us to worship the right God the right way. Let's read this commandment. It is one of the longer ones.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:4–6 (ESV).

Incidentally, if you grew up Roman Catholic or Lutheran, you will have a different understanding of this commandment. The Roman Catholics and Lutherans take the first and second commandment and combine them into one. To get ten, they split the last commandment into two. In one sense, this is acceptable because there are no numbers in front of the Ten Commandments in Hebrew. I personally think the Protestants are right on their number because linguistically and biblically this looks like a separate commandment. Many people wonder why the Roman Catholics insist it isn't. Some guess that it is to soften the blow of this commandment when it speaks with such severity against graven images since the Roman Catholic Church uses many of them.

Structurally, we see this commandment breaks into four parts. There is the commandment itself. Then there is the reason for the commandment. Next there is a warning against violating the commandment and a promise to those who keep the commandment. We will structure this morning's study under those four headings.

What does the second commandment mean?

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Exodus 20:4 (ESV)

The commandment says don't make yourself any kind of carved image. The old King James says we shouldn't make a graven image. I think the old

language of the Old King James actually captures this commandment well. Graven means engraved. Don't take a metal tool or a paintbrush to a piece of metal, wood or stone to shape it into anything that you think looks like God or to help you worship God. Don't make anything that looks like a bird, an animal on the land, something that swims in the water or something that lives under the earth. That pretty much covers all of creation. When it comes to worshipping the right God, we must worship him the right way. The right way involves not creating anything with our hands to picture God so that we start to worship it instead of God. As soon as we fashion something with our hands to help us picture God we have broken this commandment.

The interesting part is while Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days getting these commandments, what were the people of Israel doing at the base of Mt. Sinai? They were busy breaking this commandment. In Exodus 32, we find they made a golden calf. Speaking of Aaron, Moses' brother, it says,

And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" Exodus 32:4 (ESV)

The golden calf was Aaron's senior art project. There is that King James word of graven image, an engraved image.

Most people don't realize the purpose of the golden calf. It was not to completely reject the God of Mt. Sinai. It was to help the Israelites worship the God of Mt. Sinai. It was to help make the incomprehensible God more comprehensible.

Even though Aaron said to the people these are your gods (plural) in the next verse they planned a party to the Lord (singular).

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.” Exodus 32:5 (ESV)

The golden calf was to help them worship God by picturing God. The people were trying to worship the right God the wrong way, through the image of a golden calf.

Why did they choose a golden calf, not a golden hippo? Remember the Israelites were accustomed to the gods of Egypt. The gods of Egypt were represented by various animals. One god had a frog head. Another God had a falcon head. The chief of the Egyptian deities was the Apis Bull. They figured, the God of Mt. Sinai was obviously the chief deity since he destroyed all the other deities in Egypt, therefore, he would be represented by a bull. You can see the logic in their thinking.

As most of you know, this did not go over well. In fury, Moses broke the first copy of the Ten Commandments when he came down from Sinai. He ground the golden calf to pieces, put it in a stream and made the people drink the water. Why was Moses so furious that the people made a golden calf to help them worship the right God? Let's find out.

Why did God forbid a graven image to help in worship?

You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God... Exodus 20:5a (ESV)

God forbids a graven image because of his jealousy. It doesn't sound right to talk of God's jealousy. Today, when we think of jealousy, we actually think of envy. We think of somebody desiring something that is not theirs. That is not the kind of jealousy spoken of in this verse. This is righteous jealousy. This is not the jealousy of wanting something that is not yours but the jealousy of protecting

something that is yours. This is the jealousy experienced by a husband when he sees his wife in the arms of another man. This is the jealousy with which a father protects his children.

When God sees his people pouring out affections that should be reserved for him to a created object instead of him, he experiences a righteous jealousy, just like a husband feels when his wife is in the arms of another man.

While this text tells us one of the reasons to avoid making a hand-crafted image to use in worship is God's righteous jealousy, there are other reasons we are to not violate this command.

Graven images always make God smaller.

Here is a photo of Cindy and me at the Mother's Day photo booth we had in the church foyer a few weeks ago. Is this photo an accurate depiction of our family?

Absolutely not. This photo does not and cannot tell you all the information you need to know about us. First, it doesn't tell you we have three children.



They weren't in the photo. Second, it doesn't tell you about my wife's cooking. By the way, she is a great cook, especially when it is Italian. Third, this photo doesn't tell you where we live. Fourth, the photo doesn't tell you the language we speak. The problem with an image is that it only conveys a brief slice in time. There is so much an image can't tell. Images distort us by making us smaller.

The exact same thing happens whenever someone makes a graven image to help in worship of God. They distort and reduce God by representing him as less than he is. For example, take the golden calf the Israelites made in Exodus 32. That golden calf reduced God to one place at one time, when he is actually omnipresent. The golden calf said nothing about God's love for his people. A golden calf is incapable of communicating the vastness of God's power. A golden calf can't capture the encyclopedic nature of God's knowledge. Anything we make to help us worship God portrays him as less than he is. This is another reason why God told his people to never make an image of hHim to help in worship. That image will reduce him and distort him.

This is part of what led to the division of the Catholic and Protestant churches. The Catholic Church has historically created beautiful ornate spaces of worship that leave you feeling like you walked into the presence of God. While the intricacy and beauty of those cathedrals were done with the best of God-glorifying intent, the unintentional side effect was to leave you feeling like God lived in a building. God was not everywhere, instead, you went to the cathedral when you wanted to meet him and pray to him.

An additional example is that Catholic churches typically portray Jesus hanging on the cross in their artwork. The problem is, like a photograph, that is only part of the picture. He died on a cross but he also rose from the grave. That is what makes his death on the cross special. Jesus is also now seated at the right hand of the Father. By only portraying Jesus on the cross, many people are left focusing on part of Jesus' work, not all of his work.

Catholic cathedrals also also known for beautiful, large stained glass windows with Bible scenes painted on them. They were originally done with the best of intent. They were to help the illiterate to learn their Bible stories. The problem is that over time the beautiful windows transformed from helping guiding worship to becoming objects of worship. People started saying prayers to beautifully crafted images of Jesus and the saints in the stained glass windows. People started lighting candles under the images of Jesus of the apostles. Soon the beautifully painted images of God were receiving the worship that should only be given to God. Over time, the beauty of cathedrals, paintings and statues led to a violation of the second commandment.

The reaction against the Catholic veneration of sculptures, painting and buildings was so strong that in the Protestant reformation there was a big push for simplicity in architecture. Protestant churches emphasized that God's chosen method to communicate with us was words, not images. God's people were to be people of words because God chose to communicate with us through words. Look what the Bible says on this.

Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. Deuteronomy 4:15–18 (ESV)

Since God strictly warned against images, we are to be a word-based people of God, not a graven image-based people of God.

The Protestant reformers also pointed out that nobody is brought to spiritual life by an image that someone created to aid in worship of God or that was to look like God. A picture cannot communicate the gospel. Only words can communicate the gospel.

...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God... 1 Peter 1:23 (ESV)

Since God's chosen method of revealing himself was his Word, and since God only germinates spiritual life through the Word of God, we emphasize the preaching of the Word of God. We are also careful to avoid images in worship that would lead to a distortion of God or become an object of worship beside God.

Graven images divert our worship from the creator to his creation.

Another reason God warns of the danger of worshipping him through an image is because even a good object intended to help us in worship can easily become an object of worship. We see this in 2 Kings 18. The historical background is that when God's people were in the wilderness, they grumbled against God. God sent a swarm of venomous snakes into the camp. Thousands were bitten and died. The people turned to Moses for help. God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole. Everyone who looked on the bronze serpent would not die even though they were bitten. Incidentally, that is a great piece of history that foreshadowed what Christ came to do for us. Even though we are dying because of the sting of sin, we only need look to Jesus and we will live. The problem is what happened with the bronze snake later in Bible history.

When Hezekiah became king, we find him destroying the historical relic of the bronze snake. Let's see why.

He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). 2 Kings 18:4 (ESV)

Over time, a good thing become an object of worship. People slowly began worshipping the bronze snake they could see rather than the God of the universe they couldn't see. Over time, we have a tendency to worship something visible if the option is put before us.

Let me give you a fun example to show you how this can subtly slip into life. Years ago, when I was a senior pastor in an old EFCA church, in the church basement we had an picture of Jesus on the wall. It wasn't very accurate. Jesus looked like a European with feathered hair and a perfect complexion.

In the church, we began a Wednesday night children's ministry. In a children's ministry, you must play with balls. As kids would often do, the balls went in every direction in the church basement. Unfortunately, Jesus took a few face shots. The painting even began to tear in the corner.

Wanting to protect Jesus from taking a few more head shots, I took him down and put him in a place of safety, next to the boiler in the furnace room. I thought I was protecting Jesus. I wasn't prepared for the response of some in the congregation. They were upset that the old picture of Jesus in the church basement was taken down. I was the pastor that took Jesus out of church! While I recognized moving Jesus to a ball-free zone made some people uncomfortable, the reality is Jesus was being venerated like the bronze snake in the days of

Hezekiah. A good thing to help in worship had slowly, for some, become an object of worship.

Paul also described the lunacy of creating any kind of image or idol to help in the worship of God. In Acts 17, Paul found himself in Athens, a city filled with idols to different gods. One ancient writer estimates there were 30,000 different deity-statues and temples in Athens. Peterronius, an ancient historian, said it was easier to find a god in Athens than a man! While Paul was in this city that specialized in violating the first and second commandment, he shared about Jesus.

First, Paul shared about Jesus in the synagogue, then with the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. They eventually brought Paul to the Aeropagus, which was the public lecture hall, to hear what he had to say. Remember the context. This was a city filled with idols and graven images of various gods. Paul went right to the second commandment to show the foolishness of using any kind of created object to approach the God of the universe.

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. Acts 17:24–25 (ESV)

God made the entire world and everything in it. If God made the world, why would he live in a manmade temple? A box? Why would he need you to offer him meat and vegetables to eat? He creates life. He doesn't need you to sustain his life.

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. Acts 17:29 (ESV)

Think about this, if God created us, how foolish is it to think anything we make with gold, silver or stone fashioned from our imagination can capture him or represent him?

In the end, not only do images we make for worship portray God as something smaller but they divert our worship away from our creator to a manmade object.

Images leave us with the false belief that we can manipulate God through them.

Images also leave us with the false sense that we can control God through them. If we just burn the right incense, offer the right prayer in front of them, or make the right pilgrimage to them, we can control God by forcing him to show us favor.



This is Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is a painting of Mary the mother of Jesus located in a Catholic church at Mexico City. It is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world.¹

Thousands upon thousands come to pray in front of her on their knees. Candles bearing her image are brought to sporting events for good luck.² People walk on their knees for hundreds of yards through the courtyard into the church to pray to the image of the Virgin Mary, hoping to gain her favor.



¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Guadalupe

² <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/do-you-know-about-our-lady-guadalupe-here-s-why-n828391>

The more penitent you are and the more you suffer in your prayers, the more likely, they believe, Mary is to intercede for you to Jesus because you prayed to her picture.

The problem is that Mary is in heaven. We were never told to pray to her. We were told to pray to Jesus. In addition, suffering on your knees in front of a painting does not force God to answer your prayers. That is a direct violation of the second commandment.

In the Old Testament, we see something similar taking place. The Israelites were in battle with the Philistines. It was not going well. They were losing. Somebody had the bright idea to bring the ark of the covenant with them to battle. They figured that since God was in the box, if they could bring the God-box to battle, they could force God to come to their aid and give them victory.

And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” 1 Samuel 4:3 (ESV)

As soon as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, “What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” And when they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp, the Philistines were afraid, for they said, “A god has come into the camp.” And they said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before.” 1 Samuel 4:5–7 (ESV)

Would God let himself be manipulated so they would be victorious? Absolutely not. The Israelites were defeated. The ark was taken captive into Philistine territory. While there, God took care of defending his ark without their help. The people of God thought they could manipulate God by using the ark of

God. God is God. He cannot be manipulated or controlled though a manmade object.

Those are some of the reasons why God gives the second commandment. He couples this commandment with a stern warning.

The Second Commandment's Warning — Breaking the commandment will hurt your children.

...for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me...
Exodus 20:5 (ESV)

Why does God give this stiff warning? God says disobedience to the second commandment will not just lead us away from God, but it will lead our children and our grandchildren away from God. Violation of this command has a multi-generational impact.

Incidentally, does this mean God has no mercy on the descendants of people who violate this commandment? No, it doesn't. It says there is suffering for the children of those who violate this command to the third or fourth generation of *those who hate me*. This is assuming that the fathers who hate God and violate this commandment will also have children and grandchildren who hate God and violate this commandment. If any children repent, this warning doesn't apply.

When you use an image to aid you in worship, that image will not just become revered in your life, but it will also be revered in your children's lives and in the generations that follow. Our Lady of Guadalupe is a great example of this happening. The painting was originally painted in 1531. It was done with the intent of helping people worship, but it was a violation of the second

commandment. Over time, it moved from helping people worship to becoming an object of worship. The older it became, the more revered it became. It has led countless generations to break the second commandment.

Let me show you an example of the multi-generational impact of breaking this commandment in the Bible. In Judges 17, we read about a man named Micah. He lived in the hill country of Ephraim. He stole silver from his mother but later returned it. (It is never a good idea to steal from your mother.) His mother dedicated part of the money back to God. They decided to take 200 pieces of that silver, melt it down and make a carved metal image to help them in their worship of God. They were still worshipping the true God of the universe. They wanted to be orthodox. They even hired a young Levite to be a priest in their house. They were worshipping the right God the wrong way, though a graven image.

Later, we find men from the tribe of Dan went to spy out the land. They saw how things were going with Micah and send a raiding party of 600 Danites to sack Micah's house. They stole his carved silver image and his young Levite. They took them back to the tribe of Dan. Judges 18 concludes with these words.

And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. Judges 18:30 (ESV)

The Danites worshipped the right God. It was led by Moses' own grandson. You can't get more legit than that. The problem is they were worshipping the right God the wrong way. They worshipped God through the stolen silver idol they took from Micah. Worshipping God through this image persisted for generations. It was the ancient version of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

What were the implications of their keeping the first commandment but violating the second?

Later in Israel's history, Israel went through civil war. The northern and southern kingdom split in half with the 10 northern tribes called Israel, under the leadership of a man named Jeroboam. The two southern tribes were under the leadership of Solomon's son, a man named Rehoboam. Jeroboam didn't want the people from the northern tribes continually traveling back to Jerusalem for religious festivals. He was afraid the kingdoms would reunite and he would lose control. He decided to set up two golden calves as alternative places of worship for the people in the northern kingdom. These bulls were not meant to lead the people to worship a different god than Yahweh. They were meant to worship the right God a different way, through a graven image. Look how the Scriptures describe Jeroboam's decision.

So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." 1 Kings 12:28 (ESV)

There is something interesting to notice. The writer of 1 Kings borrowed the exact same language as Exodus 32 with the golden calf when he said, "Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." This was a repeat of the golden calf incident from Mt. Sinai, except now there were two calves instead of one!

At this point, the people should have remembered their history. They should have freaked out and seen this as a violation of the second commandment. They didn't. One of the places where Jeroboam had no resistance to placing his golden calves for the people's worship was in the tribe

of Dan. Why didn't the Danites see this as a violation of the second commandment and reliving a disastrous period of their history? They had worshipped God through Micah's silver idol for year. They saw no problem with violating the second commandment.

There is another interesting part of this story. Why did Jeroboam create golden bulls for the people to worship Yahweh? Baal, the favorite Canaanite God, was represented by the Canaanites as a bull. Rehoboam was not just breaking the second commandment but he was breaking the second commandment to blend Israelite and Canaanite worship! This ultimately led to the apostasy and destruction of the 10 northern tribes of Israel. They were taken into captivity by the Assyrians and never returned. Where does the genesis of 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel begin? It began with Micah. One man in the hill country who chose to worship the right God the wrong way. The consequences of doing this dominoed to destroy most of Israel.

Do you have a greater appreciation for the multi-generational consequences of violating this command? The moral of the story is allowing idols and images in your worship will not just affect you but it will affect your children and grandchildren for generations to come. Over time it will always lead them away from God rather than to God. This is why we need to be very careful what images we use in worship.

The Second Commandment's Promise — Keeping it will leave a lasting blessing.

...but showing steadfast love (to the thousandth generation) of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:6 (ESV)

The good news is those who love God and refuse to reduce him by making images part of their worship will bless their children and their children's children for generations to come. The point is contrast. The blessing of keeping this commandment far outweighs the consequences of violating it. There is a much greater multi-generational blessing to keeping the commandment than you can imagine.

How does this commandment apply today?

1. Be careful of church artistry that becomes church idolatry.

Some of us may wonder if God is against beauty and creativity in church. That is not true. Our God is incredibly creative. He loves beauty and creativity. If we look at the tabernacle in the Old Testament, we find God gave detailed descriptions of how to make it beautiful. While the tabernacle was beautiful, nothing was allowed to represent God or to be worshipped in place of God.

In the New Testament, God in his wisdom, has seen fit that the temple was destroyed. The new temple is Jesus Christ. Since Jesus is the new temple, we need to be careful artistry in the church that can be so beautiful and captivating doesn't distract from the worship of Christ in the church. This is why Protestants typically prefer simple places of worship where the focus is on the Word of God, not images and artistry.

2. Be careful of imaging God the Father.

We know no one has seen God the Father or can see God the Father. Even Moses was not allowed to see God the Father but just the afterglow of his presence. Yet, we sometimes see God the Father portrayed as an old man. For

example, in Michelangelo's Sistine chapel, his painting of the creation of Adam portrays God the Father as an old man. This is clearly a violation of the second commandment.



Be careful of church worship that is experience-based instead of word-based.

The second commandment is violated whenever we elevate image-worship instead of word-based worship. God's chose to reveal himself by the spoken word because all pictures will diminish and distort him. On Mt. Sinai, there was no image that was seen. There was only a voice that was spoken. That means the church must be a primarily word-based place. To the degree that we downplay the spoken word of God and replace it with visual experience, we can be prone to walk away from God. Earlier we talked about the danger of image-based worship. Today, the danger for many protestants is experience-based worship. Some church worship services are like a Christian concert with flashing lights, darkness, thumping bass and blaring sound. They are all emotional experiences. People leave loving and remembering the worship experience rather than Jesus. The problem is that nobody is brought to spiritual life through an emotional experience. According to 1 Peter 1:23, the only way people are born again is by the Word of God. The message of the good news of Jesus is how people are born again, not the experience of a concert or a worship experience that feels like a concert. Of course there is nothing wrong with having a good worship experience at church. The problem becomes when there is too much focus on the worship experience instead of the Word of God.

Don't reduce God by worshipping him for some of His attributes instead of all of his attributes.

We love to remake God into something smaller and more acceptable. This past week, I was reading an article by a local pastor in a surrounding community that endorsed the LGBTQ agenda in his church.³ Her rationale was that God is loving. She is right. The problem is that God is not just loving. God is also just. He judges sin. He judges homosexual sin, heterosexual sin and all sin. The only way to avoid eternal judgement for our sin is Jesus. We make God smaller when we only look at some of his attributes and neglect the attributes that make us uncomfortable.

God gave us an image to worship. His name is Jesus.

While the second commandment is adamant that we do not reduce God by making an image of God, he did give us an image to worship. God made the incomprehensible God more comprehensible to us in Jesus. We don't need an image to worship now that we have Jesus, who is the perfect image of the God we should worship.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. Colossians 1:15 (ESV)

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature... Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

Jesus said to him... "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father..." John 14:9 (ESV)

When it comes to knowing God, we don't need to make an idol. God tells us to come to him through the Son. Jesus revealed the incomprehensible God to

³ <https://saintsinnerseeker.net/2018/05/29/2-but-the-bible-says/>

us so we can know him. Jesus also gave us someone to worship, someone to fix our eyes upon as we seek to know and be known by God.

This morning, the second commandment reminds us we must also refuse to reduce God by making something like him in worship or trying to use a manmade object to help us in worship. The good news of the second commandment is that while we can't make anything to help us visualize God, the second person of the Trinity poured himself forever into a human body so we can know God and his incredible love for us in a way we couldn't before.



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