



The first and second commandments are closely related: “Have no other gods but Me,” and “Do not bow down and worship idols.” Similar, but not the same. Related, but not redundant. The first tells us *whom* to worship. The second tells us *how* to worship. Idol worship, replacing God with something or someone else, has been a temptation from the beginning. Even as the 10 Commandments were being given, the people bowed down to the golden calf (Exodus 32).

While we may not use the term, idol worship is a clear and present danger to us today. As Voltaire observed, “In the beginning, God created man in His own image. Now man has returned the compliment.” Consequently, it is imperative that we consider the implications and applications of this command that challenges both our actions and our motivations.

1. In what ways are the first two commandments **similar**? **Different**? (Exodus 20:1-4)

2. Consider the **historical occasion** when God gave the 10 Commandments to Moses.
 - Exodus 31:18-32:1 What provoked the making of an idol?
 - Exodus 32:2-6 As *chargé d'affaires*, did Aaron solve the problem?
 - Exodus 32:7-8 What was the actual problem?
 - Exodus 32:30-32 How did Moses provide responsible leadership?

3. What would be contemporary equivalents of making or bowing down to idols?
 - Mark 7:1-8
 - 2 Timothy 3:1-5

4. How would you justify the consequences of compliance or non-compliance (Ex 20:5-6)

5. What legitimate expressions of the image of God could be intentionally pursued?
 - Genesis 1:27
 - Isaiah 42:6-8
 - Colossians 1:15-20
 - Ephesians 5:22-33

“They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)