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The Ten Words of Life: Worship

Part 1: Sermon Notes

Guard your Worship

The Second Commandment affirms like the first that we are not to have other gods, but it also intends to guard our worship of God from the _____.

At the outset, it should be clear that idolatry is a serious issue to God

When God speaks of jealousy, he is reminding us that our relationship with him is like a marriage.

Idolatry has a consequence not only on us, but on our children, and on their children, and on their children.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:5-6

Reject the CULT-ure of Idolatry

Idolatry was not simply about bowing and making sacrifices.

It was about _____. An idol guaranteed the presence of a god.

Idolatry is fundamentally a work _____. We end up selfishly creating gods in the image and likeness of our choice.

It was about _____. An idol made it easy to worship.

Idolatry was also about _____. It was inherently sensual, about pleasing the senses.

Idolatry was a _____.

"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another, or my praise to idols."

Isaiah 42:8

Remember this Principle

We become like what we _____.

*“But their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands...
Those who make them will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.”*

Psalm 115:4, 8

We resemble what we revere, either for
ruin or restoration.

G.K. Beale,
We Become What We Worship

The Second Commandment: Worship the One True God and Live

There is only one properly prescribed way by which we
can approach God and worship Him,
_____.

The beginning of worship and the
beginning point of eternal life is
believing in Jesus Christ as our
Lord and Savior.

Part of the process of moving forward is the ever so humbling but necessary act of
_____.

The other part of the process is participating in the practice of corporate worship.

- ◆ Come prepared to worship God
 - Have you properly dealt with any conflict in your life?
 - Come with expectancy that you are going to encounter the living God.
 - Come ready to give him your best.
 - Give yourself enough time so you can be focused and attentive.
- ◆ Approach God with Honor and Reverence
 - Prayerfully engage in the Prayer or Song of Confession
- ◆ Praise God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength
- ◆ Listen for God
- ◆ Build an understanding of each element of the worship service.
- ◆ Apply one thing—seek each week to take one thing away from the service as way of response
God’s revealed glory.

Part 2: Discussion Questions

1. What are reasons that have drawn you to gather for Sunday worship?
2. Respond to the following definition of worship: “Worship is our response of praise to the glory of God.” What is your own working definition of worship?
3. How would explain to a non-believer why God is so concerned about idolatry that he declares Himself to be “*a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation*”?
4. Read Exodus 32. From the sermon, some of the main characteristics of the culture of idolatry were described (control, selfishness, convenience, self-gratification, deception). See if you can identify each of these in the account of the Golden Calf. What else stands out to you in this account?
5. G.K. Beale states this biblical principle, “We resemble what we revere, either for ruin or restoration.” Let’s assume this is true, what do you think people might think your God looks like based on the semblance of your life?
6. How do you evaluate worship? What makes a good worship service? What makes a poor worship experience? How did the sermon challenge or support your own perception of evaluating worship?
7. What do you feel was the most important thing God was trying to tell you in this study of Second Commandment?

Part 3: Taking it With You

Practice Coming to Worship with Holy Expectancy

The exercise for the coming week is to prepare to come to corporate worship with what Richard Foster calls Holy Expectancy. For many of us, attending Sunday worship is fraught with frustration and distraction. But the real point is to focus our attention on God and offer our praise to His glory. We should come with the expectation to meet with God, because He is the one who calls us to worship Him.

For this reason, I invite you to try to deepen your experience of corporate worship by engaging in a few acts of preparation.

1. **Give yourself enough time.** The proper attitude of worship cannot be achieved through the ten seconds we spend walking through the narthex. Go to be earlier than usual. Give yourself enough time to get adequate sleep but also to wake up and come to worship without being hurried.
2. **Arrive early to the service.** Try to be seated at least five minutes before the service starts and start focusing your heart and attention of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.
3. **Share with God your excitement to meet with Him.** You could do this with a simple prayer, expressing your gratitude and anticipation to worship God.
4. **Focus on one aspect of the service.** Choose one you don't normally engage well with (sermon, bible reading, prayer, singing, confession, and communion) and pay careful attention to your experience and the intention of this element of worship. How might you learn and deepen your experience of worship through this element of the service?
5. **Seek to apply one thing from the service.** Richard Foster writes, "Just as worship begins in holy expectancy it ends in holy obedience." What is God asking you to do? Is there someone you need to speak with? A change you need to make? A new practice you need to incorporate with your walk with God? Keep it simple but try to discern one thing God may be asking of you, and then seek to put into practice.

Answers for Sermon Notes

Guard Your Worship

- ◆ CORRUPTION OF IDOLATRY

Reject the CULT-ure of Idolatry

- ◆ CONTROL
- ◆ OF OUR HANDS
- ◆ CONVENIENCE
- ◆ SELF-GRATIFICATION
- ◆ LIE

Remember This Principle

- ◆ WORSHIP

The Second Commandment: Worship the One True God and Live

- ◆ THROUGH JESUS CHRIST
- ◆ REPENTANCE