

FIRST COMMANDMENT

Who holds the first place in my life?

As youth we have many challenges and many decisions to make in life. Most of them will have an effect on us for the rest of our youthful days and way beyond. We are the target of Satan's attacks, and his purpose is to ruin our lives.

There are three top decisions in a young person's life- what to do with God, what trade to follow in life, and whom to marry.

The most important of these three is "What to Do with God". The other two will be impacted by this one. These reflections will deal with that decision in the context of, the Ten Commandments. We will see what God has set before us so we will have a very fulfilling life, and we will also consider what our current position is.

The first commandment deals with WHO occupies the first place in our life.

The Bible states unequivocally that God is unique. *"Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord He is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: **there is none else.**"* Deuteronomy 4. 39

Among the many different religious ideas in our world, there is, a new one, called Gaia Worship, which centers total attention on "mother earth" as an object of worship. Humans beings have worshipped other invented gods, other planets, material goods, etc; but this is worship of the place where we live, the earth. It seems as if people want to worship ANYTHING except the true God. Some will even go so far as to acknowledge the fact that there is "a" God. But our God is not "a" God; He is THE GOD.

He is one of a kind there is no other like Him, and there is no other to whom we , can turn for help and wisdom.

He is the Creator of the earth and everything that exists around us. He is perfect in all His ways. He is able to do anything and everything. He is powerful. He is plural, together with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He is also self-existing. He has neither beginning nor end.

Modern ecumenical groups that call for a one world religion assert that everyone is all right as long as he believes in "a" god; they claim that that is what matters. And, as a matter of fact, church attendance in general is just great. The U.S. is the country with the second highest rate of church attendance in the whole world; people put a high priority on attending worship services. But is that what Jesus meant when He told His disciples to go and preach the gospel to all the world?

Church attendance gives people a nice feeling nowadays. They seem to want to feel good about themselves and they want to be entertained. But our God needs to be deeply revered and obeyed. It is not enough simply to be aware that He exists.

Popular Christian religions are really sending the wrong signal to the world. People are not being transformed. People are not confronted with the truth found in God's word. People think that since they are worshipping God in a church, that must be it: they must be doing the right thing.

This is why God's holy law, the Ten Commandments, is of so important at this time in history! The law shows us the framework within which God wants us to live. When we disobey its principles, we are not just losing our salvation but returning to slavery.

The first commandment says: ***"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me"*** Exodus 20: 3. Honoring something besides God Himself is life having another wife while my first wife is still alive. God alone is worthy of worship. He should be the only one in our minds.

This commandment does not relate just to religions which openly practice idolatry. It is for us, who adhere to Christianity. Pagan religions have one thing that is often incorporated into Christian belief, and that is: If you do something to please your god, your god will do something to, please you!

Have you ever thought about that? Do we want God to do something for us when we do something for Him?

The God of the universe, the Creator of our lives, is far from such a pagan idea. Do we understand what God wants from us in His first commandment?

He is stating that He is the only one worthy of worship, and therefore He should be the one in control of our actions. He should be in control of our relationships. He should be in control of our every aspiration for success. He should be in control of our search for a life companion. Is He in control? Have we violated this first commandment?

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord" Jeremiah 9: 23, 24.

Even good, God-given things can assume first place in our lives.

"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord." Joshua. 24: 14 God knows whom we worship whether we realize it or not.

The question is, Whom are we serving today?

Where are we in reference to His first commandment? Is it written in my heart? Who is in control of all my life? Who is the first in my heart?

We are first in His thoughts. He loved us so much that He planned a way for us to escape eternal death and to spend eternity with Him. We should consider Him as He considers us. Let us not have any other god before Him!

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