

Discussion Questions

- Yoga, crystals, and the enneagram have their roots in other worldviews. What dangers might there be in Christians incorporating them into worship?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

If a man wanted to express love toward his wife, which would make the better gift: something he enjoys? Or something he knows *she* will enjoy? Worship is not primarily a means of self-expression. When motivated by love, we will seek to know God and to worship in the manner that *He* desires. In our sinful state, nothing we offer is acceptable, but Jesus lived perfectly and offered his life as a pure and undefiled sacrifice on our behalf. Because His worship was pure and accepted, Scripture assures us that those who are in Christ can now offer acceptable worship as well. *Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire* (Hebrews 12:28-29). Why would we want to worship Him any other way?

Discussion Questions

- When you worship, do you tend to think more in terms of what you want to offer? Or what God wants to receive?
- If someone asked you why you worship the way you do, what would you say?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, October 6th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #56

Q: What is forbidden in the second commandment?

A: *The second commandment forbiddeth the worshiping of God by images or any other way not appointed in his word*

Suggested Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 4:15–16 “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, [16] beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure...

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Imagine you are at a restaurant and order a salad. If you mentioned you were a vegetarian and didn't want any meat, what would you expect the waiter to bring you? A big plate of BBQ brisket? No. Your instructions were clear, and so are God's. Throughout the Bible, God gives us instructions on how He wants to be worshiped. He also warns against improper worship. We are not left to guess, and we are not invited to invent our own ways. The worship that we offer to God says something about who we think He is, and God is insistent that we worship Him truthfully. When the Samaritan woman at the well questioned Jesus about the proper way to worship, this was His response: *You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.* (John 4:23-24) Through scripture, and ultimately through Jesus incarnate, God Has revealed to us the truth about who He is and the kind of worship that is acceptable to Him.

Discussion Questions

- If God already told us to worship Him only, why do you think He then specifically said not to make idols?
- Why is it important that God tell us how He does and doesn't want to be worshiped?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God has given us instructions on how He wants to be worshiped, and in the second commandment He specifically forbids making and worshiping images. In Deuteronomy, God repeats those instructions with strong warnings to "beware." Consider God's word: *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. And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven* (Deuteronomy 4:15–19). It appears that we are prone to worship, and God is warning His people to be careful where and how they direct that worship. The 17th century mathematician Blaise Pascal described it this way, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus."

Discussion Questions

- What kinds of things does scripture say we might be tempted to see and worship rather than God?
- Why do you think that is?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The second commandment is given for a good reason. Romans tells us that sinful man is prone to worship the creature rather than the creator. *Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen* (Romans 1:23-25). In different parts of the world, this idolatry can be seen in nature totems, shrines to the dead, and idols to foreign gods. But sinful man's tendency toward superstition and idolatry is not limited to pagan cultures. At Texas A&M University, in the middle of the Bible Belt, there is a statue of one of the school's early leaders. Students regularly lay coins at the feet of the statue and sometimes offer a quick prayer in hopes of good luck on an exam. Many of these students would consider themselves Christians, and yet... Rather than look to the God who upholds all things, they put their hope in fashioned bronze, the likeness of a fallen man.

Discussion Questions

- What kinds of superstitious habits do people look to for "good luck"?
- How is this a form of idolatry?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

With the second commandment, God specifically forbids the worship of images. He also forbids worshiping by "any other means not appointed in His Word." In Leviticus, Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu had the arrogance to think they could approach God any old way, and the consequences were disastrous. Scripture says, *each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.* (Leviticus 10:1-2). In particular, we are to take care not to let the practices of the world around us creep into our worship. Leviticus 18:3-4 warns the people, *You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you... I am the LORD your God.* Not unlike the fickle Israelites, many Christians today try to adopt ideas from Eastern Mysticism and other worldviews, thinking they can be incorporated into Christian worship. But, God forbids worshiping Him in any way not appointed in His Word.