

“STRONG FAMILIES: ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES”

Introduction: THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:3 (God): You shall have no other gods.

Martin Luther: What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Exodus 20:4-5 (LB) “You shall not make any idols... you must never bow to an image or worship it in anyway.”

TWO PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

PRINCIPLE # 1. DON'T _____ ANYTHING

Deuteronomy 4:15-16(TEV) “For your own good... don't sin by making an idol in any form at all.”

- “Idolize” means to _____ something more than God.
- Archeologists: In every culture man turns _____ into objects of their worship.
- In Bible times there were three primary idols
 1. Baal – god of _____.
 2. Mammon – god of _____.
 3. Molech – god of _____.

THREE REASONS NOT TO IDOLIZE ANYTHING

1. Idols will **D**_____ you.

Jeremiah 10:14 (TEV) “Those who make idols are disillusioned because the gods they make are false and lifeless.”

- Today our idols promise more than they can _____.

Habakkuk 2:18 (TEV) “What is the use of an idol? It is only something a man has made. What good does it do... to trust it?”

2. Idols will **D**_____ you.

I Corinthians 12:2 (TEV) “Before you knew Christ, you were controlled by dead idols, who always led you astray.”

- Today our idols are called _____.
- Allowing another person to control me is _____.

3. Idols will D _____ you.

Psalm 115:8 (TEV) "Those who make idols will become like them, and so will those who trust in them."

- We shape an idol and it ends up _____!

PRINCIPLE #2 DO _____ ONLY GOD

Romans 1:25 (TEV) "Many exchange the truth about God for a lie: they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator Himself."

- Two motives behind idols
 1. Idols attempt to _____ God's location.
 2. Idols attempt to _____ God's power and size.

THREE BENEFITS TO WORSHIP ONLY GOD

1. IT WILL D _____ YOU. (FULFILLMENT)

Psalm 37:4 (TEV) "Seek your happiness in the Lord and He will give you your heart's desire."

Romans 10:11 (TEV) "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."

2. IT WILL D _____ YOU. (FREEDOM)

John 8: 31-32 (NIV) "Jesus said, 'If you obey My teaching...you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.'"

- Putting God first sets me free
 1. I don't have to please _____.
 2. God frees me from my p _____, _____, and _____.

3. IT WILL D _____ YOU. (FULL POTENTIAL)

II Corinthians 3:18 (LB) "As the Spirit of the Lord works with us, we become more and more like Him."

CONCLUSION: What image do you have of God?

1. Unpleasable _____.
2. Angry _____.
3. Feeble _____.
4. _____.

Colossians 1:5 (NIV) "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God."