

The 1st Commandment
Exodus 20:1-17
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 34
May 18, 2014

Main Point:

Cast aside your idols and devote yourself exclusively to your God and Savior.

1. There is only one true God.
2. Since there is only one true God, you must not worship any idols.
3. Since there is only one true God, you must trust and love Him alone.
4. Cast aside your idols and devote yourself exclusively to your God and Savior.

HC 92 Q. What does the Lord say in His law? A. [The Catechism quotes from Exodus 20:1-17, reciting the giving of the Ten Commandments.]

HC 93 Q. How are these commandments divided? A. Into two tables. The first has four commandments, teaching us what our relation to God should be. The second has six commandments, teaching us what we owe our neighbor.

HC 94 Q. What does God require in the first commandment? A. That, as much as I love my soul's salvation, I avoid and flee all idolatry, sorcery, soothsaying, superstition, invocation of saints or other creatures; and that I rightly acknowledge the only true God, trust in Him alone, submit to Him with all humility and patience, expect all good from Him only, and love, fear, and honor Him with my whole heart; so that I leave and forsake all creatures rather than do even the least thing against His will.

HC 95 Q. What is idolatry? A. Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed Himself in His Word.

Matthew 22:37-39 ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ "This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ "And *the* second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (NKJV)

Isaiah 45:21b ²¹ ... *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; *There is* none besides Me. (NKJV)

Martin Luther "Whatever thy heart clings to and relies upon, that is properly thy God."

Origen "What each one honors before all else, what before all things he admires and loves, this for him is God."

1 Corinthians 10:14 ¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (NKJV)

1 Peter 5:6-7 ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (NKJV)

Joel Beeke "We must trust Him with our failing businesses. We must trust Him with troubled marriages. We must trust Him with the difficulties of rebellious teenagers. We must trust Him with our own corrupt, unbelieving hearts. We must trust Him when He changes our plans and thwarts our intentions and destroys our goals. We must trust Him submissively when He goes against us, or if it seems that way. We must say, "Whatever the Lord does is good," even, or especially, when it seems that it is bad."

James 1:17 ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights ... (NKJV)

G.I. Williamson "God and his Christ demand absolute allegiance, and they demand it in every sphere of life."

Matthew 6:24 ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (NKJV)

Joel Beeke "The first commandment demands that God gets His rightful place, that God alone is God."