

“Taking God Seriously”

Exodus 20:3-7

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#1: Taking God seriously means **ESTABLISHING A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THAT PUTS HIM FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE.**

“You shall have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3 (English Standard Version)

“Put no other gods before me” means, ‘Since I alone am God, you shall place all your confidence, trust and faith on Me alone, and on no one else.’” (Adapted from “A Treatise on Good Works” by Martin Luther)

“Anything we look to more than we look to God for our sense of acceptability, joy, significance, hope and security is, by definition, our god.”
(From “Center Church” by Tim Keller)

“No one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve God and money.” Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

“If there is a God who created you, then the deepest chambers of your soul simply cannot be filled up by anything less.” (Augustine)

“God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there.
(From “Mere Christianity” by C.S. Lewis)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (ESV)

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. Matthew 22:35-38 (ESV)

Elements of love =

- allegiance
- action
- affection

#2: Taking God seriously means **RECOGNIZING AND REJECTING ANYTHING IN MY ENVIRONMENT THAT COMPETES FOR GOD'S RIGHTFUL PLACE.**

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."
Exodus 20:4-6 (ESV)

Commandment #3: Taking God seriously means BEING SELF-AWARE ABOUT HOW MY LANGUAGE EITHER HONORS OR DISHONORS GOD.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." Exodus 20:7 (ESV)

"in vain" = emptiness = misusing the name of God = dishonoring that name