

CARVED IN STONE, PART 2
WORSHIP GOD ALONE
Exodus 20:3

God's people are to worship God alone.

The LANGUAGE of the First Commandment

Second person singular ("you" singular)

No other gods "before/against my face"

No other God except me

No rivals to God's authority

The CONTEXT of the First Commandment

Polytheism is simply how the ancient world worked.

Ezekiel 20:7-8

It's one thing to get Israel out of Egypt; it's another thing to get Egypt out of Israel.

The VIOLATION of the First Commandment

King Solomon

1 Kings 11:4-6

The time/effort we spend on ourselves vs. the time/effort we spend on the things of God

The REVELATION of the First Commandment

God wants (and deserves) to have primacy or preeminence in his people's lives.

God finds it revolting to have "competition" from substitutes.

Question: Is God not humble? Is he a narcissistic God?

God *is* utterly supreme in the universe!

Genuine transformation through genuine worship

God is the very definition of humility—to have infinite power to compel submission while allowing himself to be rejected.

The APPLICATION of the First Commandment

God allows the existence of alternatives in life, but he wants us to choose the best.

Nothing else should be king in our lives but God.

Tolerance is a biblical value, but syncretism is not.