

RULES TO LIVE BY!

3. Have No Idols



Introduction

In our last study we looked at the first commandment that was given by God to the Children of Israel through Moses. This command was, "Have no other gods before me." The second command is linked to the first, and we will study that now.

Scripture Reading: **Deuteronomy 5:1-4, 8-10**

- ❶ In Deuteronomy 4:15-19 the Children of Israel were given this same command in more detail. What were God's people told not to worship?

(We are not to worship any image made in any shape: a man or a woman, an animal, bird, creature or fish. Nor are we to worship anything God has made: the sun, moon, stars or heavenly bodies.)

- ❷ What reasons does God give for not worshipping idols or anything God has created? Deuteronomy 4:12, 15; 5:9-10

- (1. When God spoke to the Israelites they saw no form, they only heard His voice. This is because God is Spirit and it is impossible to make anything to represent Him.*
- (2. God is a jealous God and wants us to love Him exclusively, in the same way a wife should love her husband exclusively.*
- (3. When a person worships idols it brings God's wrath upon them, but His desire is to bless us and so he warned His people to guard against idolatry.)*

- ❸ Why is it foolish, according to God's Word to worship the sun, moon and stars? Deuteronomy 4:19, Isaiah 40:18-20, 25-26

(It is foolish to worship these because they have been created – so we would be worshipping something created, instead of the Creator Himself.)

Perhaps to us it is obvious that it is wrong to worship idols, but millions of people across the world do so.

- ❹ According to Romans 1:18-25 why did men begin to worship idols?

(Man did not glorify or thank God, although they knew Him, and as a result of sin their hearts became darkened, and so God allowed them to follow their own desires.)

As men and women began to worship idols their hearts became dark and closed to the truth. They taught their children to worship idols too, and so idolatry was passed from generation to generation, increasing the stronghold of Satan over their lives and culture.

- 5 Although idols cannot see or hear, we know men and women come into bondage when they worship them. Why is this? Deuteronomy 32:15-17, 1 Corinthians 10:19-20

(When people are worshipping idols they are actually worshipping demons. Any kind of idol will attract demons or evil spirits.)

- 6 What happens to those who worship idols? Psalm 115:3-8. Have you seen or heard of any examples of people who have become like their idols? Discuss.

You may have grown up in a family where there is idolatry, and perhaps you had to participate in worship as a child. Although you may not have understood then, now you know the truth you need to ask God's forgiveness and destroy anything that is part of that idolatrous worship. We also need to make sure we have no idols in our hearts!

- 7 Read Colossians 3:5-6 and Ephesians 5:5. What else does God see as idolatry and why?

(Immorality or greed is from our flesh. When these control our desires or thoughts they become idols in our hearts.)

Conclusion

Do you have any idols in your heart? God's Word says that we become like what we worship. That is a frightening thought if we worship an idol! However if we worship Jesus we will become more and more like Him. Hallelujah!! 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory." Amen!