



Putting God First
Exodus 20:1-7
#14 in a series on Exodus
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Theme: **Putting God First Means Giving Him Exclusive Supremacy.**

No Other Gods.

1. Clearing up the language. (3)
2. Exploring the implications. (3; cf. Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 6:19-24; 22:36-38)

No Idols.

1. What idols? (4; cf. 25:18-20; 32:1-10; Deuteronomy 4:15-16)
2. Why no idols? (4-5)
3. Results of our response to this commandment. (5-6; cf. Deuteronomy 24:16; Ezekiel 18:4, 20; John 14:15, 21, 23)

No Misuse Of God's Name.

1. Clarifying the language. (7; cf. 23:1; Ezekiel 39:25; Matthew 5:33-37; 23:16-23)
2. Guarding our language. (7; cf. Ephesians 4:29; James 3:3-12)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Read Exodus 20:1-26. The *Ten Words* or Ten Commandments are based on who God is, His sovereignty and His demonstrated power and grace (verse 2). This is the core truth for relating to God and each other that God gave Israel, with details in the following chapters.

The Ten Commandments and entire Law never were a means to salvation, but God's standards for living. Why are the Ten Commandments important for you?

Tuesday. The First Commandment is "You shall have no other god's before Me." We noted on Sunday that this means God does not tolerate His people worshiping anything or anyone else. He demands exclusive supremacy. A god is anything or anyone we worship, serve or follow. Our family, career, dreams and causes can become gods. Jesus has reminded us that this kind of half-hearted or divided allegiance is not only unacceptable, it does not *work* (see Matthew 6:19-24). Do you have any other gods? Do you have any *potential gods*, anything or anyone that verges on displacing God in any way in your heart and mind? If so, deal with that now. Ask God to keep you alert and to love Him with all of your being (see Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 22:34-40).

Wednesday. The Second Commandment is "You shall not make for yourself an idol..." While the words *gods* and *idols* are often used interchangeably in the Bible, this command deals with how we are and are not to worship God. God tells us not to make any physical representation of Him. Why not?

We all impact those around us and those who follow us. What legacy are you leaving? Regardless of our background or those before us the good news is that God shows His lovingkindness to all who love Him and keep His commandments. Thank Him for this grace.

Thursday. The Third Commandment is "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain." The word *vain* had the meaning of being empty, false and worthless. In addition to profanity using God's name, what other ways do people use or lift up the name of God in vain (you might check any notes you made on Sunday)? Why is this prohibition so important?

As we conclude this week, remember that these first three foundational commandments are about God and how we relate to Him. Has this review pointed out things that you need to change? Read 20:1-7, and then Deuteronomy 6:4 and Matthew 22:36-38.

Friday/Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at the Fourth and Fifth Commandments. Read and reflect on Exodus 20:1-26 in preparation for our time together.