

For the next two weeks we are spending our time in the Ten Commandments. Today we are looking at the first commandment.

Ex 20:3

You shall have no other gods before Me.

When you think of gods, what do you think of?

Maybe yesterday's devotional speaking of a statue that others worship. We looked at the examples of the Egyptian statues and even Buddha. Another one, which I didn't mention, is Mary the mother of Jesus. (Which there are hundreds of thousands of these statues around today) If you worship Mary, pray to her or even put her in the same category as God, then you are breaking this first commandment. Mary was a woman (actually a young teenager when Jesus was born) just like any other woman. She sinned just like any other woman and if she rejected Jesus as the Messiah, she too would not be in heaven. But I believe she is there and that she believed that her son was the Messiah!

But there are other things that you may not have thought of as being a god in your life.

What sort of things would this be?

Well, it would be anything that takes the place of, or that you make equal with God. It could be something that you put your trust in more than God.

One example would be money. If you are dependent on money to survive then that is your god. Now we all need money to buy food, pay our rent or mortgage, clothes etc. But if you had no money would you die? Jesus says;

✦ **Matt 6:26** *Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*

This verse tells me no, because God is the provider of all things. God has provided you with the ability to do your job, and He has even allowed you to have your job. And if you had no money God would still provide all your needs.

Another god could be a person. That's right, anyone who you put before your relationship with God you are making a god. How could you do this with someone?

Sex before marriage is one way, because you are going against God's command not to fornicate (sex before marriage) just because he or she wants you to, or even compromising on what church you go to just to be with that person. Is your relationship with him or her more important than your relationship with God?

These are just a few examples of how we serve other gods and what they could be.

So going through the devotionals the last two weeks, have you wondered possibly about your salvation? Maybe thinking, "*I have broken every one of the Ten Commandments*".

But there is hope for all who have broken one or all Ten Commandments (I know I've broken all ten), and that hope is in Jesus!

† **Romans 5:1** *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

† **Romans 15:12-13** *And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

God knows that you would, and have broken His commandments. That's why He sent His only begotten Son so that we will be saved.

† **John 3:16-17** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

If you have been, as a Christian, breaking any or all of Gods commandments. Ask His forgiveness and He will forgive you.

† **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Then as Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery,

† **John 8:11** *She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

Go and sin no more, in other words, turn from what you have been doing and walk with Jesus again.

Maybe this is all new to you and you never really realized that you have broken God's commandments. There is the same hope for you, and that hope is in Jesus Christ also. Just pray this prayer from your heart, repenting of your sins, and He will forgive you, make you clean and new, and give you the strength to turn from the way you have been living.

Just pray:

Jesus, I admit I have sinned. I ask You to please forgive me of my sins and to cleanse me and make me whole. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and that You rose from the dead. Fill me now with Your Holy Spirit and help me to tell others about you. Thank You Jesus for dying for me. I ask this in your name Jesus. AMEN!

Is that too cool or what? If you just prayed that prayer from your heart (believing it and not just reading it) Welcome to the family of God, you are now a Christian.

Those of you, who are believers, don't get discouraged when you fall into sin, even though you are trying not to. God has not left you and He will always be there ready to forgive you. Just ask HIM!

Deut 31:8 "And the LORD, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."