

## TWO KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE AND SOCIETY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS SERIES

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**Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”**

**INTRO:** The Ten Commandments are arguably the greatest document that has transformed our world. Vishal Mangalwadi’s book, *The Book That Made Your World*, gives testimony after testimony of how the Bible has transformed our world, and the heart and foundation of the Bible is the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are life giving. By obeying the Ten Commandments, I promise you, you will be successful in life. If you take the Word of God to heart and practice it, you will see success and transformation in society.

God delivered the Jews from the Egyptian bondage of slavery, but God had to take the slave mentality out of the Jewish people. He had to take Egypt out of the hearts of the Jews. The Commandments are not more bondage; they actually lead to freedom. For example, an elementary school did an experiment. They took the fences that surrounded the playground down, thinking the kids would roam around and explore their newfound freedom. Just the opposite happened. The kids became insecure and huddled toward each other. When they put the fence back in, the kids were again running free within the fenced area. So too, the Commandments tell us what we can do and what we cannot do, and that leads to clarity and freedom.

We are going to look at the first two Commandments. The Jewish version of the Ten Commandments puts these two together. They are the mother of all the Commandments. If you get these two right, every other Commandment falls into place. “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3) and “You shall not make for yourself an idol” (Exodus 20:4). These two are reduced to: (1) Love God Supremely; (2) Respect All Life. Let me explain.

### **I. LOVE GOD SUPREME**

#### **A. Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.”**

- 1. When you put God first in your life, everything will go well with you.**
- You will be so blessed. Sue and I pinch ourselves because of how much God has blessed us. God loves you and wants to so bless you.
- The foundation of God’s command of not having other gods, as well as all the Ten Commandments, is motivated out of love for His people. God, out of compassion and out of His goodness (Exodus 34), led the Jewish people into freedom.
- If you believe that the Commandments came from God, then the first thing you have to do is love God supremely. Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments into two commandments: Love God and love others.
- If you don’t love God supremely? You will end up following other gods.

6. We are wired to worship. If you don't worship and love the true God, you will end up worshipping other gods and will come under Satan's dominion.
7. By going after other gods, you will end up empowering the enemy, Satan.

#### **B. THE ENEMY IS THE ENEMY**

1. The Bible reveals that Satan was an archangel named Lucifer, that he became proud and wanted to be worshipped. He rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven with one third of the angels that he had convinced to follow him.
2. **Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**
3. Satan knows that the only way that he can hurt God is by attacking God's people, the apple of His eye. The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. His main objective is to steal from humanity the worship that is due to God. He does this by setting up false gods. By worshipping other gods, we end up worshipping him.
4. **Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"**
5. The greatest spiritual weapon God has given to us is to love and worship God supremely and to get as many people also to be worshipers of God.
6. We must realize that we are in a battle for souls. Satan and his cohorts are doing everything to get people to worship anything and anyone but God.
7. **Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

#### **C. SATAN WILL HAVE YOU WORSHIP OTHER RELIGIONS**

1. The other world religions are: (1) Hinduism, (2) Buddhism, (3) Islam.
2. I will address Islam later on in this series. Most of us in the USA are not being seduced by these other world religions. But we are susceptible to:

#### **D. SATAN WILL GET YOU TO WORSHIP THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD: (1) MAMMON, (2) ENTERTAINMENT, AND (3) SPORTS**

1. **Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon."** ("Mammon" is a proper noun. It is a deity).
2. Anything that you put above God can be your god (e.g. your family). That is why Jesus said in Luke 14:26, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

#### **E. SATAN WILL GET YOU TO WORSHIP FALSE IDEOLOGIES: THE TWO MAIN ONES**

1. **SECULAR HUMANISM: A philosophy that emphasizes that people are inherently good and that problems can be solved by using reason instead of traditional religion. It is a humanistic philosophy that rejects the existence of God and the supernatural.**

2. This came out of Enlightenment intellectual philosophers like Voltaire, Rousseau, and Thomas Jefferson would be the most famous American. Our universities have become bastions of humanism and socialism.
3. **SOCIALISM/COMMUNISM – Socialism: any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods. Communism:**

**F. CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE FALSE “GODS”**

1. These ideologies break most of the Ten Commandments, beginning with the first. The secular humanism belief that man is god, and through his reason and intellect, he can solve the world’s problems. Communists and socialists have been atheistic. Communist China is an atheistic government. You have to sign a pledge that you will be an avowed atheist before you can join the Communist Party (e.g. Henry’s friend).
2. “Thou shalt not murder.” Secular humanism sparked the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror, not only executing King Henry XVI and his wife, Marie Antoinette, but Catholic priests and Christians. Communist leaders like Mao, Stalin, and Pol Pot led to the murder of almost 100 million people.

**II. RESPECT ALL LIFE**

**A. Exodus 20:4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”**

**B. IDOLATRY HAS TWO MAJOR DESTRUCTIVE REPERCUSSIONS: (1) IT INVITES THE DEMONIC. (2) IT LOWERS OUR RESPECT FOR MAN, WHO IS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.**

1. **Idols become a temple or habitation for demons.** (e.g. My time in Kyoto and Nepal.)
2. **Loss of Respect for Humanity:** When you lower the image of God with an idol, you immediately bring God to a human level or a created level. What separates God from everything else is that God is uncreated.
3. **When you lower the image of God, you also lower the image of man.** In every society that had idols for their gods, you saw the killing of innocent life, whether it was Baal worship with the image of a bull for their god and they practiced child sacrifice, to the ancient Incas and Aztecs that practiced human sacrifice to feed or appease their god.
4. But if we respect all life because it is made in the image and likeness of God, then issues like racism will be lessened. In his campaign to end the slave trade, William Wilberforce’s main emphasis was that Africans are made in the image of God.
5. I believe that racism is a spiritual problem rooted in sin. When you believe in God and believe that all humans are made in the image of God, you will respect all life, including the unborn.
6. We are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. As we inculcate the truth of the Kingdom into society, we will see transformation around the world as these false ideologies come crashing down. (E.g. My trips to Beijing.)

CONCLUSION: The real, permanent change takes place when you give your heart to Jesus.