

NO IMAGES

WORSHIPING THE INVISIBLE GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Sermon Questions

1. List the two common misunderstandings of the Second Commandment:
 - i. It forbids all religious _____
 - ii. It forbids all _____
2. The Second Commandment prohibits the worship or representation of the true God in _____
3. List the six reasons for the Second Commandment:
 - i. Images of God _____ God.
 - ii. Images of God _____ God and his revelation through his word.
 - iii. Images of God are products of our own _____.
 - iv. Images of God incline us to _____ them wrongfully.
 - v. Images were never _____ by God to be used in worship.
 - vi. Images of God are forbidden because God is a _____ God.
4. How ought we to apply the Second Commandment?
 - i. We ought to consider what it _____ (for us).
 - ii. We ought to consider what it _____ (to us).

Discussion Questions

1. Images of God or Christ (even in children's books, nativity scenes, or artwork) can misrepresent his invisible glory and lead to a diminished view of him. Honestly examine your own home, devices, or books: Are there any depictions of God the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit that you now see differently?
2. Even well-intentioned uses of images (to "aid devotion" or help the unlearned) can still incline people toward wrongful veneration or reliance on objects. Where in your own spiritual life do you tend to look for visual, tangible, or emotional "helps" to feel close to God? How might relying more fully on God's word and the preaching of Christ change that pattern?
3. The 2nd commandment highlights God's jealousy and the generational consequences of idolatry or false worship (visiting iniquity to the third and fourth generation), contrasted with his steadfast love to thousands who love him. As a parent (or future parent), grandparent, or child—what does this teach you about the long-term influence of how you worship God? How can you pursue faithfulness now for the blessing of those who come after you?
4. The sermon concluded that God has given us something far better than images: his self-revelation in Scripture and in the living Word, Jesus Christ, whom we know through the gospel. How has hearing this message increased your appreciation for the preached word, the reading of Scripture, and the four gospels?
5. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon?

Discussion Questions for Children

1. God is invisible—like a spirit we can't see with our eyes. Why do you think God doesn't want us to make pictures, statues, or drawings of him (or even of Jesus as a person) to help us pray or think about him?
2. The sermon talked about things like nativity sets with baby Jesus, crosses showing Jesus on them, or storybook pictures of Jesus. If we love God and want to obey him, what could we do instead of using those pictures to help us remember him or celebrate Christmas/Easter?