



"10 Values That Grow Strong Christians", Series, Part 2
January 18, 2009 – Will Mackey

Accept No Substitutes! (Exodus 20:4-6)

What does it say?

⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Ex. 20:4-6)*

What does it mean?

1. It is NOT a re-wording of #1. In the context of worshiping the One True God:
 - Don't create something to represent God or use as a mediator to get to Him.
 - Don't ascribe powers to it or submit to it.
 - Worship God as He reveals Himself to be in His Word...not as you imagine Him to be or as you want Him to be.
 - Parents' disobedience can create deeper hatred and disobedience toward God in their children and the consequences can stay in a family for generations.
 - Parents' love and obedience for God can create the same in the lives of their children and the blessings of such choices can impact a family for untold generations.

What do we do with it?

1. Do we create things that we use to represent God or use as a mediator to get to God?
 - Crosses/Bibles as good luck charms
 - Pictures
 - Rituals
 - Songs
2. Do we create things that keep our focus on only part of God's nature or limit our full understanding of Him?
 - Church denominations and doctrines
 - Individual church visions and styles
 - Sunday morning nature lovers
 - Political parties
 - Scripture-less habits
3. Do we worship Him as He is or how we want Him to be? Will we worship...
 - The God who loves and who hates?
 - The God who gives grace and who withholds it?
 - The God who is patient and who demands obedience?
 - The God who shows mercy and who punishes?
 - The God who trusts and who is jealous?
 - The God who is calm and who can be angry?
 - The God who laughs and who grieves?
 - The God of peace and of war?
 - The God who is longsuffering and who demands justice?
 - The God who created Heaven and who created Hell?