

NO IDOLS ALLOWED

Introduction:

I. THE INTENT OF THIS COMMANDMENT FROM GOD

A. What is prohibited?

“idol” (*pesel*) =

“likeness” (*temunah*) =

“image” (*tselem*) =

“likeness” (*demut*) =

B. Why is it prohibited?

El qana (vs. 5)

C. What are the dangers of such representations?

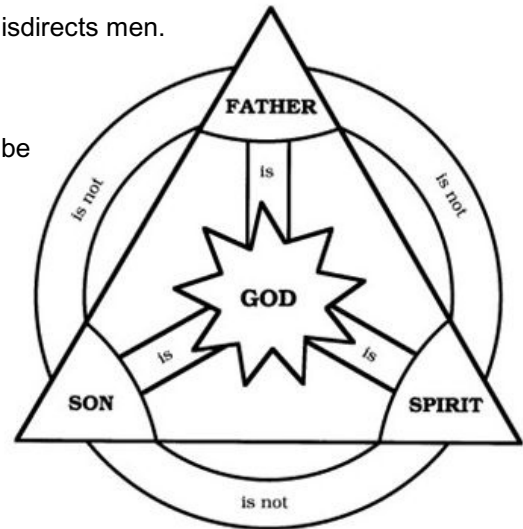
- 1) You may be guilty of serious misrepresentation, characterization, or even twisting of God's image.
- 2) You may be guilty of “abominable idolatry” (I Peter 4:3) and, by worshiping “worthless idols”, render yourself worthless (Psalm 115:8).
- 3) You may be guilty of bringing long-term judgment upon your family for generations (vs. 5b-6)

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR CONCEPT OF GOD

A. How should we think of God?

B. Why is this important?

- 1) It is wrong to entertain thoughts about God that are inadequate to describe Him.
- 2) It is wrong to use any form of imagery of God because they all discredit Him.
- 3) It is wrong to use any form of imagery of God because it misdirects men.
- 4) It is not wrong to use a variety of depictive means to describe or illustrate God and His attributes.



III. THE ISSUES FOR THE CHRISTIAN IN RELATION TO GOD

A. What about other monotheistic faith systems?

B. What about “pictures” of Jesus?

C. What about “idols of the heart”?

Leviticus 19:4 - “do not turn to idols”

Ezekiel 14:1-8 - be careful of “setting up idols in your heart”

I John 5:21 - “guard yourself from idols”

Food for Thought:

- 1) What is the difference between the first commandment and the second?
- 2) Why might this sin (or its avoidance!) affect future generations? Why did it make Israel (and us, if we do similarly) “a laughingstock to their enemies” (Ex. 32:25)?
- 3) What potential “golden calves” are evident in American culture today?
- 4) What idols do you need to confront in your own life?