



Commandment 2: Who is carving whom?

The first commandment was about *who* we are to worship – only the one true God. This commandment is about *how* we are to worship him.

But before we get into it...

1. Prawns and Polycotton

What about the laws that no Christians think we need to keep any more? Like Leviticus 19:19? So why treat the Ten Commandments differently?

In the Bible, there are two different sorts of laws...

'Image of God' laws

'Just because God commanded them' laws

The second of these can change when God says that they change; the first can never change. They are laws which must be what they are because we are the images of God. These are called the *moral* law.

Lies, sharp knives and dinner time...

2. What is being forbidden?

Commandment 1 was about not worshipping anything other than the true God.

Commandment 2 is about not trying to make an image *of* the true God.

Exodus 32:1-6	What do the people want Aaron to do? (v1)
	What do the people think the calf is? (v4)
	Which God does Aaron think this is an image of? What is he trying to do? (v5)

The point is that we are not to try to carve an image of God; that is not how we are to worship him.

3. Who is whose image?

Look at v4. 'image' and 'likeness'. These words have come together before in the Bible...

Genesis 1:26-27	Who is whose image?
Genesis 3:5	What is the temptation which Adam and Eve give in to? Why is this ironic?
Colossians 1:15	What is special about Jesus?
Colossians 3:9-10	What is Jesus doing to Christians?

So Christian worship must not be about us carving God into our images; it is about God carving us into his image.

We must worship only the one true God, and have no other gods before his face

And the worship of the one true God *must be in the way he has commanded*. We come to him on his terms, not ours.

Worship is not DIY. It is not for us to make up how God is to be served.
The difference between Christianity and paganism
The difference between Christianity and everything else

4. A Jealous God

What 'jealous' means	Jealous for his images Jealous for his own glory
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So the issue here is that those who serve the one true God must recognise that he *is* God, and we are not.

Why 'generations'?	Third and fourth generation A thousand generations
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5. Worshipping God God's way

Worship is all God's initiative

How we worship God

- The Word of God
- Prayer
- Signs and Seals (Baptism and the Lord's Supper – the 'sacraments')
- Songs and gifts

Why this way?

- Because God commands it
- Because these are God's tools to carve us into his image
 - He knows what we are – he made us – and has designed worship to shape our whole selves, body and soul, to reflect his glory.

6. Conclusion: The Ten Commandments and the Image of God

What would you say if you heard...

All religions are just different ways of worshipping the same God.

Let's try some really innovative worship.

The world has changed so much, we need to rethink what church looks like.

"God, we welcome you here with us for our service this morning"

I can't believe in a God who judges people; the God I believe in is kind and nice.

This painting will really help us to focus our thoughts on God.

We're going to have a Bible reading, then we'll have a time of worship, and then we'll listen to what God is saying.

Now everyone has a smartphone, we need to use multimedia apps to help us connect with God.