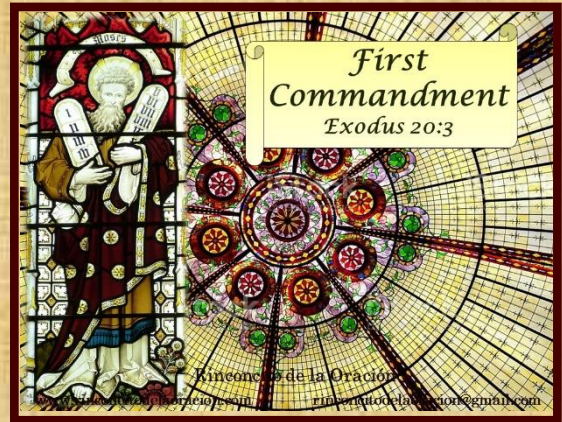


According to Exodus 20:3 the First Commandment is: “*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*”



What is the order of this commandment?

In this first commandment we are ordered to know and accept God as the only and true God, and therefore worship and glorify only Him.

I Chronicles 28:9 – Deuteronomy 26:17 – Matthew 4:10

According to this First Commandment, what is it that is forbidden?

It is forbidden that we neither deny nor refuse to worship or honor Him with praise as He is the only and true God the Creator; or that we worship and glorify any other being, that only God is worthy of receiving.

Psalms 14:1 – Romans 1:20-21 – Psalms 81:11 – Romans 1:25

How are we to understand the phrase “before me” in the first commandment? The words “before me” (that could rightly be read as “in my face”) teach us that everything that God sees as considering any other god is displeasing and would be even worse if someone were occupying His place.

Psalms 44:20-21

Conclusion: God’s commandment is very clear and specific about having other gods before Him. Back in ancient times (including Egypt) there used to be a multiplicity of pagan gods being worshiped. For that reason, it was a precise warning from God to His people about getting involved with those neighboring people given that being idolaters it was highly likely that they would end up adopting their ways of living.

God demands that only He be considered before any other deity. Nothing should occupy His first place. Nothing should displace Him and to remember this, *Sh’ma Yisrael* is recited twice a day by the Jewish people, in the morning and in the evening: *Sh’ma Yisrael, Adonay Eloheinu, Adonay Ehad*: “*Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.*” (Deuteronomy 6:4). *Sh’ma* is considered the basic expression of the Jewish monotheist belief.

This is the reason why the surrounding peoples were extremely surprised about Israel's uniqueness as a monotheist nation.

There are situations or circumstances in life that keep us unwillingly apart, stuck or dominated that take worshipping, praying and union time away from our Creator in such way that we miss precious spiritual moments which only He deserves.

Jean Calvin may have been the first one to identify human nature as a manufacturing process of idols that works round the clock, seven days a week. We permanently deal with the temptation of giving priority to all types of activities and situations before paying attention to God.

We have a personal God who has a specific relationship with each and every one of us and it is through prayer that communication is made; a Good God because when giving these commandments to His people, He is in turn giving them to us for our own good; and a God who is "... *holy, holy, holy* ..." (Isaiah 6:3) and who absolutely differs from all other pagan gods by his holiness.

By not obeying this commandment we fall into idolatry from which we must flee (I Corinthians 10:14). A life stained by idolatry will not have access to God's kingdom.

God is utmost and the only worthy of all honor, glory, and worship and because of this, He deserves priority over all; and His place should never be occupied by other pagan gods.

Blessings and until next Commandment!

Translation: E.G. Monteagudo

Rinconcito de la Oración

www.rinconcitodelaoracion.com

rinconcitodelaoracion@gmail.com