

SERIES: 10 COMMANDMENTS

MESSAGE: "COMMAND #1 – A DIVINE PRIORITY"

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A DIVINE REMINDER...

"I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery." – EXODUS 20:2

EXODUS 20:3, NLT

"You must not have any other god but me."*

1. This command to have no other gods is one of the most _____ commands in the Old Testament

*The Hebrew "but me" or "before me" means, "**before my face**" – this is huge!

God doesn't just want to be the god at the _____; He wants to be our **one and only God**

"The more we give ourselves to God, the more we become like God." – J. ELLSWORTH KALAS

2. This command sets the _____ for the other nine

[Jesus] *"'You must love* the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the **first and greatest** commandment." – MATTHEW 22:37-38*

* The Hebrew root of the word "love" implies, "**I will give**"

3. This command seeks to put life in its proper _____

"The first commandment is about the whole orientation of our lives. It means the end of a compartmentalized life that gives God a certain portion (like Sunday morning) and then orients the rest of our lives around our own perceived needs and goals." – TIMOTHY TENNENT

THE BIGGEST ISSUE IN LIFE IS PRIORITIES

1. There are countless _____ gods contending for our attention, affection and allegiance

"You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you." – EXODUS 34:14

2. When we draw up a list of what matters most, whoever or whatever holds the _____ is our god

"Sometimes we profess to worship the God who is revealed in Jesus Christ, but we demonstrate, by our conduct, that we have quite another god." – J. ELLSWORTH KALAS

3. Whatever is at the top of our list will _____ the kind of person we become

"We become like what we worship. That's why the Ten Commandments begin with our relationship to God." – J. ELLSWORTH KALAS

4. This first commandment is the _____ God-ward orientation of our whole lives

"Be careful. Don't let your heart be deceived so that you turn away from the Lord and serve and worship other gods." – DEUTERONOMY 11:16

"We should view this first commandment as the doorway into the whole life of faith. It sets our feet on the right path and orients us in the right direction for all that follows." – TIMOTHY TENNENT

SUGGESTED READING

- Ten Words, Two Signs, One Prayer – Core Practices of the Christian Life, by Timothy C. Tennent, Seedbed
- The Ten Commandments from the Backside, by J. Ellsworth Kalas, Abingdon Press