

## **HC Q&A94-95 – There is Only one True God: Serve Him!**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Today you will hear God speak to you regarding his 1<sup>st</sup> command. But keep 2 things in mind as you hear God's explanations concerning all 10 laws.

1. God wants you to obey the intention of the law, not just the letter. The letter kills, but the spirit gives life.
2. As you hear God's laws explained, look to **see your sin and need for Jesus Christ, consider how you are to apply the law in your life today, and learn to utilize this law in the civic realm.**

Our headings are: **Prescription of the Law**, and **Prohibition of the Law**.

Our goals are: That because you were created and re-created in Jesus Christ, you will **acknowledge that God is the only God of heaven and earth**, and that you will **trust and worship him as he requires.**

94 Q. WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE IN THE FIRST COMMANDMENT? A. That I, **not wanting to endanger my very salvation**, avoid and shun all idolatry, magic魔法, superstitious迷信的rites仪式, and prayer to saints or to other creatures. That I sincerely acknowledge the only true God, **trust him alone**, look to him for every good thing humbly and patiently, **love** him, **fear** him, and **honor him with all my heart**. In short, that I give up anything rather than go against his will in any way.

### **Prescription of the Law**

#### **1. This command requires that you trust in, serve, and obey Jehovah God, the one and only true God.**

This means that if someone had a god who is not the covenant God – Jehovah- of the Bible, then they have a fake god. Allah is not the God of the Bible, though Muslims argue that way. Buddha is not God. Buddha didn't even claim to be God, but was made to be by his followers. Krishna is not God. Siva is not God. Hear the words of the Bible:

**Isaiah 43:10** "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. 11 I, **even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.**

Jehovah is the only God who gives eternal life.

**John 17:3** - "And this is **eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

If you do not obey this command – anyone of his command -you are under a death sentence for eternity.

1Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers 谩骂者, nor extortioners 敲诈者 will inherit the kingdom of God.

2. Since Jehovah is the only true God, you must **acknowledge this with your mouth.** You will **confess** that all other gods are liars and fakes 冒充的, but Jehovah God is real.

Deuteronomy 26:17 "Today you have proclaimed the LORD to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice.

Those who are unwilling to confess this do not know or fear the true God.

3. Since Jehovah is the only true God, you **will trust him.** **Speaking is wonderful but it must come from a trusting heart!**

Jeremiah 14:22 Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O LORD our God? Therefore we will wait for You, Since You have made all these.

This verse is quite telling, especially while we live in a world where there are constant attempts to harmonize true faith with false religions and cults. If you trust in Jehovah you will not trust in man.

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. 6 For he shall be like a shrub 灌木 in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched 炎热的 places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. 7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.

Trust in the Lord means you are willing to give up everything rather than go against his will. You must be willing to give up your most treasured body part or your parents...if either were necessary.

Matthew 5: 29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Trusting God is a lot more than talk.

4. Since Jehovah is the only true God, you **will love** him– this is a command, not a suggestion.

Matthew 22:37 – Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

Of course this means you have to learn how to love God by studying him. Because of sin you don't know how to properly love. You need to train yourself. Love is summarized in obedience.

5. Since Jehovah is the only true God you will **fear him**. This fear is an action...

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

1Peter 1:17 - And if you call on the Father, who without partiality 偏袒 judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

6. Since God is the one and only true God in whom you trust, you must **honor and worship him**.

Malachi 1:6 "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence 尊敬?"

Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Psalms 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Love, honor, fear, and honor must be done with all your heart, not just with your actions.

7. Since Jehovah is the only true God, you will **ask him to give you** what is good for you.

Psalms 104: 27 These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season. 28 What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good.

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...

But this looking to God is not to demand good things, but desire good things with humility.

1Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Knowing that God is the one and only God, you will not try to make a deal with God, but take what comes from his hand...whether you like it or not. (Lord, if you help me pass my exams I will go to church more!)

### **Prohibition of the Law**

1. You shall have no other god before God's face. So **this law forbids idolatry**. (Note: The word "you" is in the singular, to point you to the fact that this law is personally directed. No one is exempted.) But what is idolatry?

95 Q. WHAT IS IDOLATRY? **A.** Idolatry 偶像崇拜 is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in his Word.

The Egyptians were known for having at least 10 famous gods matching the 10 plagues God put on Egypt. As Israel was leaving Egypt, God wanted this to be foremost最重要的 in their minds so they wouldn't follow the example of the idolatrous Egyptians.

### 3. What are examples of idolatry?

a. Being superstitious is idolatry. If you believe that things like stars, four-leaf clovers 三叶草, charms 魅力 or black cats on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> can affect what happens to you, you are idolatrous.

b. Polytheism多神论 is not religious, but idolatrous. Believing that all religions and gods are more or less the same is wrong. No good man would say to his wife: "I love you, but I love another woman also."

1Chronicles 16:26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

c. Pride is idolatry. If you have an exaggerated view of yourself, thinking you are strong and able enough to do everything for yourself, that is idolatry.

d. Covetousness 贪婪 is idolatry. When you making a god of money or possessions, like the rich young man in Matthew 19, you are guilty of idolatry.

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

e. Knowledge can become a god if you think that knowledge can secure your future.

f. Making men lord of your consciences is to make idols of men.

g. Being lukewarm 不热心的 is idolatry of yourself, since God demands wholehearted devotion.

h. Acting presumptuously 自以为是 as the Devil urged Jesus to jump off the temple to force God to send his angels to catch him – that was idolatry.

i. Giving glory to any creature or person that belongs to God is idolatry. All good things come from God and he should get the credit. (Learn to say: I thank God for you!)

j. Praying to dead people or angels is idolatry. Do not to pray to Mary, or any other person for that matter.

Revelation 22:8-9 ... And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

You can only pray through Jesus Christ. Every other prayer goes to deaf ears and is a sin. God will bring judgment on those who try to think they can pray in any other way or to any other God.

k. Sensuality喜爱感官享受...that which makes a god of your body, is idolatry.

Philippians 3:18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame...

l. Civility 礼仪, morality, and neutrality are North American idolatry. Politeness-doing things orderly can become a substitute for God. Civility can become god to families raising children.

m. Duty can become idolatrous - like Abraham who saw his duty to his starving family, but forgot to trust in Jehovah God, or like Elimelech who ran from Bethlehem to Moab for food and not believing that God could provide a feast.

n. Children can become gods if they determine what is right or wrong for you...like if you will come to worship. I've heard people say: I want to come to worship, but my child doesn't want to.

o. Praising fortune, fortune telling, and witchcraft are idolatry. Some say: "You really have good luck." Fate 命运 is your god if you do this. Reading horoscopes is idolatry.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer 占卜者, or one who interprets omens 预兆, or a sorcerer 施魔法者, 11 "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

p. You can make wealth into an idol if you love it like the rich young ruler.

### **Conclusion:**

God forbids worshipping or trusting in any other god. He forbids you from idolatry because he is your Creator and your Re-creator in Jesus Christ. In giving these prohibitions, God rightly points to the source of breaking this law – your heart. And he warns of deadly consequences for breaking this law: eternal separation from Christ, the Bridegroom, and residency in hell. So flee idolatry. 1Corinthians 10:14

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: First, **don't make a god of your body, your wealth, your knowledge, your job, your duties, your children, or your nationality, for they too will be destroyed.** Instead, **trust, love, and honor Jehovah** God with all your heart for he is the one true God of heaven and earth and the one who saves you through the death of his Son. Second, **you will face many pressures today at school, at work, or among family and friend to treat all gods as the same or replace God with something else.** Jehovah will destroy every other god. But hold your ground in the one true God, and be willing to say to those who pressure you to minimize or replace God: "Without trusting in Jehovah God of the Bible you are as good as dead and damned to eternal destruction."

Third, then show them the salvation they could have in Jesus Christ, the only means by which they could worship Jehovah!

Finally, I challenge you like Joshua did the Israelites: There is no God but Jehovah. Will you serve him? You have to choose. Everything else in this world fails, but Jehovah never fails. But if you shun him...his anger is as great as his love...and who can save you then?