

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment: Idolatry and Hinduism

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### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment: Idolatry:

- “You shall not make for yourself a carved image- any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; for you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love me and keep My commandments.” (*Ex 20:4-7*) Thus goes the wording on the commandment that the Lord felt necessary to give the most explanation to- there must be a reason.
- “As I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD” Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things... therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given us assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” (*Acts 17:22-34*)
- Tony, Adella and I had a great conversation with 3 Hindu women from India. I was so thankful to have Adella there- the conversation would never have gotten started had not Adella taken the steps to initiate the conversation. We noticed mild conviction as we talked over conscience and without mentioning that we were going through the 10 Commandments, we spoke of them, appealing to conscience. They were listening- but were pretty self-righteous. Then we spoke of idolatry and they were really shifting in their seats. We asked if they had ever bowed down to idols. We spoke of God our Creator who made heaven and earth, and how we shouldn’t worship something man-made- we could see the impact on their faces of guilt.

We pondered the conversation afterwards and spoke of what other questions we could have asked them and Adella and Tony had some awesome ideas, such as asking them if their idols could forgive sin, or deliver them or ??? This was a “light-bulb” moment for me in witnessing- for it brings up an important evangelism principle that works hand in hand with the basic teaching of using the Law as a tutor, leading people to Christ. The principle is this: if you sense what a person’s idol is, then go straight for the idol and ask questions that reveal the worthlessness of the idol and show the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what Paul did with the Athenians in *Acts 17*, where he confronted their idolatry and told them that they must repent of these things and trust in the living God. Jesus confronted the Rich young ruler’s idol: money (*Mark 10*), and he confronted the woman at the well with her idol of men/sex/relationships (*John 4*).

I’ve noticed the moment that I’ve sensed an idol such as fornication in a person or couple, that when I share with them that particular commandment, I go deeper than usual. Usually I’ll just say, “Jesus said if you’ve lusted, you’ve committed adultery of the heart. Have you ever lusted?” But to a couple that has given indications of immorality, I’ll point out the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment, and note that “but God says in

*Hebrews 10* that the marriage bed is holy, but God will judge the fornicator and the adulterer” and then bring up lust.

Also, when I've finished sharing with singles, some have proclaimed they are trusting Christ for their salvation. I'll ask them if I can ask a personal question, and then ask if they've made a commitment to chastity until marriage. Often the answer is “no”- further questions reveal they are unrepentant fornicators, and I then can ask them if they know what the Bible says about fornication and show them their need to repent of willful, continual sin, to be saved (*Heb 10:26-29, 1 John 3:3-9*). Many people think they are saved because they “believe” in Jesus- but many have head knowledge but never have truly believed. If you jump out of an airplane with a parachute, I could conclude you believe in that parachute. Likewise, we must put on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. The scriptures say that even the demons believe- and they're going to hell.