

3. Worshipping Him means worshipping His Son

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning..

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-2, 14)

"If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." (John 14:7)

4. Look forward to the day when you will worship Him perfectly

"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."

"Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks
and honour
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!"
(Revelation 7:10, 12)

The First Commandment Exodus 20:3 Sunday, 12th September '21

Intro

The Ten 'Non-Commandments'

1. Be open-minded and be willing to alter your beliefs with new evidence.
2. Strive to understand what is most likely to be true, not to believe what you wish to be true.
3. The scientific method is the most reliable way of understanding the natural world.
4. Every person has the right to control of their body.
5. God is not necessary to be a good person or to live a full and meaningful life.
6. Be mindful of the consequences of all your actions and recognise that you must take responsibility for them.
7. Treat others as you would want them to treat you, and can reasonably expect them to want to be treated. Think about their perspective.
8. We have the responsibility to consider others, including future generations.
9. There is no one right way to live.
10. Leave the world a better place than you found it.

(<https://edition.cnn.com/2014/12/19/living/atheist-10-commandments/index.html>)

"You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)

1. There is only one God

v3

vv1-2

Exodus 7:1-5

Exodus 9:13-14

"Each of the ten plagues was more than just a dramatic sign to Pharaoh that he must release the Hebrews. Each was a symbolic defeat of an Egyptian deity. Osiris, whose bloodstream was believed to be the Nile, bleeds out before his worshippers when [the LORD] turns the Nile to blood. In reverence to Heqet, the frog-goddess of birth, Egyptians regarded frogs as sacred and not to be killed. [The LORD] slays them by the thousands. Egyptian gods governing fertility, crops, livestock, and health are all shown to be impotent before the mighty outstretched arm of Israel's God." (Jen Wilkin, Ten Words To Live By, p.23)

- Polytheism
- Henotheism

"I am the LORD, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God." (Isaiah 45:5)

2. Worship Him only

"we must never look to other sources than God for supernatural guidance or help. For God's people in the Old Testament, this meant never using sorcerers or mediums or anything similar. To do so would be to approach such powers as God. Today that means shunning fortune-tellers, psychic mediums, Ouija boards, and spiritualists. It means we don't read horoscopes...

It also means that Christians shouldn't be members of societies like Freemasons. Much of Freemasonry is about charitable work, but it has a religious basis, and its ceremonies involve praying to 'god' and making declarations about this god. But this is not the God of the Bible." (Graham Beynon, Surprised by the Commandments, p.29)

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24)

"There can be no and in our relationship with God."
(Kevin DeYoung, *Ibid*, p34)

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art

Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance,
now and always:
Thou and Thou only,
first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art.