

## **Commandments**

### **Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:3-5**

When we go to a school, we are bound by the rules of the institution. Even our parents expect us to follow some principles at home. When we're on road, we are bound by the traffic rules. Similarly we need rules in all the aspects of our life for a smooth and steady living. God gave Ten Commandments for the Israelites to follow. Those commandments are not just for the Israelites but even for us to follow. Let's look at the Ten Commandments given by God.

The first commandment, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me". The second commandment, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or 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". Idol worship is an abomination unto God. The one who worships an idol loses his honor. The bible says that cursed is a man who makes idols or images for worship.

An idol is not just an image crafted with hands. When we give priority to our friends, family, anybody or anything above God, those are the idols of our life. Few will love sports extremely; a few would love to hear secular music a lot; these can turn out to be the idols of our life. We have to be very cautious on these lines, because God hates idol worship to the core. It is an abomination in his sight.

Once when a great Tamil author, a follower of Christ was asked to sing of an idol, he responded saying, 'I cannot sing a song without my God, I do not know a song without my God'. When anything, anybody or any situation is given the first priority, that is idol worship. To bow before an idol is idol worship. God says, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me". Those who give God the first priority and worship Him alone, God has promised them His blessings for a thousand generations.

### **Questions:**

- 1) What can be considered as idol worship?
- 2) How does God look at idol worship?
- 3) What is the first commandment?