

## **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

### The First Commandment

Ex 20:1 ¶ And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Before giving the ten commandments the Lord says, "I am the Lord your God" Notice the Lord did not say, "I am the Lord.....the God" He said, I am the Lord "Your God" – Your God speaks about a relationship – a personal relationship.

Then he tells them the basis of that relationship. He reminds them that He is the LORD God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

God was reminding the Israelites that not only did He create them, but he also redeemed them from slavery and gave them freedom. That's the relationship that God had with Israel and this is the relationship He has with us. Relationship is the basis for the commands that God gave to Israel.

God led the people of Israel out of Egypt. He led them through the desert. And the commandments are another way that God leads His people, by giving them words to live by.

The First and foundational commandment is  
You shall have no other gods before Me.  
Or as the Good News has it: "Worship no god but me."

The words demanded that God's people worship, and love, and serve only the one, true God. With this first commandment, God makes it clear that His people are to have an exclusive relationship with Him.

In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Steven Van Zandt, guitarist in Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band said, "I am a reformed Taoist, part-time Buddhist, Hindu, animist, pagan, Jewish mystic, and Christian.

The first commandment does not allow for that kind of spirituality. Today there are people who invent new Gods everyday – customised bits and pieces from here and there.

Sarah Michelle Gellar, star of the TV show "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" said, "My god has the head of Buddha, and the heart of Jesus, and the hands of Gandhi..."

All roads don't lead to Rome. Some roads go to Kalina and some elsewhere. All roads don't lead to heaven.

Look what Lord Jesus taught:

Mt 22:35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 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." 38 "This is the first and great commandment.

John 14:6

God has to be number one in your life. When you think about it, this first commandment is really all about choices. You know, our lives are full of choices. We make choices concerning our lifestyle, our commitments, our priorities, etc. Will you let God be God, or someone or something else will crowd its way to the top spot in your life.

Some cultures still worship rocks and trees and animals. Some so-called “sophisticated” cultures worship various ideas, people, philosophies.

It is so very easy for us to put other things or people first in our lives and when we do God is reduced to second place, third place and often totally removed from our lives.

Lu 10:41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

When that happens we are a fraction of what we could be, we become less of a person that God intended for us to be. There are some serious questions we need to ask ourselves:

Bro. Michael I have not other Gods in my life. in order to determine if you have other gods in your life beside the true God. One important question is: On what do you set your affections on? What takes most of your time.

An additional question is: What are we living for? In other words, what are our goals? What are our aspirations? What are our objectives? Does it all center around us? If you were to list your goals on a sheet of paper, would the spiritual goals be at the top? Would there be goals that relate to your walk with God, and your service to Him? Or would your goals simply be cantered around personal achievement, job, home, family, money and the like? What are you living for? These are important questions, which will help us evaluate what we put first in our lives.

In Genesis 22 Abraham could have easily loved his son Isaac more than he loved God and refused to sacrifice him.

What is stopping you from ...making God first in your life and receiving every blessing and every promise He has for you?