

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Fall/Winter, 2018

Pastor Jim Otte

"Foundational Truth for a Confused World: The Ten Commandments"

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**Session Three: The 1st Commandment: Part 2 (Believing is More than Seeing)
"You shall have no other gods before me."**

1. From Last Session:

- a. Many people devote themselves to the god of "whatever makes me happy; whatever meets my needs
- b. The attraction of rejecting one God, in favor of multiple gods, is the illusion of being in control. "I decide what is right for me; I can pick and choose."
- c. In our day, our pluralistic culture worships a spectrum of gods or definitions of gods.



Atheism (God doesn't exist: Freedom from Religion)



Agnosticism (God exists, maybe, but by which name?)



NONES (Define God in personal terms; rejecting religion)



Coexist (Universalism: all religions equal; different expressions of the same god; everyone ends up in heaven anyway) – sincerity based salvation

4. Popular views among millennials

a. "Sophisticated Scientific Deism"

1. Albert Einstein:

- a. "higher power" at work in the universe to maintain reason in the world

2. Stephen Hawking:
 - a. "a god decreed" fundamental laws of the universe, but left its development to natural evolution.
 - b. "a god" = the embodiment of the laws of physics.
- b. "**Moralistic Therapeutic Deism**"
 1. A god exists who created the world and watches over it.
 2. God wants people to be good and nice to each other, like the Bible and other religions teach.
 3. The central goal of life is to be happy and feel good about yourself.
 4. You don't need to have God involved in your life, except if you have a problem you can't solve.
 5. Good people go to heaven when they die.
 6. God makes no demands on people to be "holy, righteous, or even good."

(Sire, James. The Universe Next Door: 2009)

5. **Exodus 20:4-6**. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.
 - a. "punishing the children for the sin of the parents...who hate me"
 - a. "punishing" – as a loving Father punishes the child who rejects His love.
 - b. "the sin" of unbelief is passed down from parent to child.
 - c. "hate" – reject; show indifference to; ignore God
 - b. "showing love to...those who love me and keep my commandments."
 - a. "showing love" – welcoming; blessing; being a Father to His beloved
6. The appeal of graven "*images in the form of anything*" has been in the human race since the beginning!
 - a. **Exodus 32:1**. *When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods^[a] who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."*
 - b. **Foundational Truth #4**: One motive people have for making "images," is the _____ of the unknown.
 - c. **Judges 2:10-13**. *After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. ¹¹ Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of*

the LORD and served the Baals. ¹² They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the LORD's anger ¹³ because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths

- d. **Foundational Truth #5:** Another motive for worshipping "images" can be the failure of _____ to teach and live the faith or the refusal of the children to retain the faith.
- e. **Jeremiah 10:3-5.** *For the practices of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. ⁴ They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter. ⁵ Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good."*
- f. **Foundational Truth #6:** Some people are drawn to "images," because it is popular to do so, in their crowd. Their desire to _____ approved of, or their fear of disapproval, guides that decision.

7. Why does this matter?

- a. **Foundational Truth #7:** To reject God as the _____ God in your life, is to replace Him with your SELF as the source of life, security, purpose, and meaning for your life.
 - a. I determine who, what, and when I serve.
 - b. I determine my own morality (right/wrong; good/evil)
 - c. I determine the purpose of my life
- b. **Foundational Truth #8:** You have little or _____ ultimate source of hope, in the midst of suffering (losses in life; rejection; injustice; etc.) beyond your own ability to cope or control the situation. Many people boil their options down to: self-medicating; escape through addictions; homicide and/or suicide, or to simply seeking more control over others.
- c. **Foundational Truth #9:** When God is your God, through faith in Jesus, you benefit from His _____. He forgives!

8. In what ways can you, God's beloved, respond/witness in the hope you have?

- a. Speak up about the benefits/blessings you've experienced – out of any darkness-es which have plagued you.
- b. Be real! Acknowledge any faith struggles you've had.
- c. Be genuine (not pathetic or settling for pat answers).
- d. Ask if it's OK, for you to pray for him/her. Make sure you do it!
- e. Be prepared to respond, not react, to pushback.
 - a. This is a conversation, which might last for years!