Lesson 38: Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Q46. Why does God give the second commandment: You shall not make for yourself an idol?**

*So we will serve, worship, and glorify God and nothing else.*

1. How has today’s lesson on the 2nd commandment changed your perception of what the commandment teaches?
2. If we understand that the 2nd commandment is targeting our worship of God, then how should we find out if our method of worship is actually God-ordained?
3. Why is the Roman Catholic Church guilty of violating the 2nd commandment?
4. Discuss how the people in Exodus 32:1-5 were guilty of breaking the 2nd Commandment. What were they actually worshiping?

1. Given that Israel would have been widely influenced by the religious culture of the Egyptians, how does this relate to us today in the church? How is contemporary worship influenced by our materialistic culture?
2. How can conforming worship to our context be a violation of the 2nd commandment? For instance, many church services will create an atmosphere to emotionally manipulate the congregation; is this method of worship represented in Scripture? If it is not, then should we reconsider what we think of as ‘good’ worship?
3. Why are graven images wrong? How do images of God lead us to false worship? Is it disrespectful to represent God as something that isn’t God?
4. What parts of God’s moral character does the 2nd commandment highlight? Why?
5. Scripture says that God is a jealous God; is this something that you struggle with? Why or why not?
   1. Why is it good news that God is ultimately for himself and not us?
6. If our beliefs about God are not exhaustively informed by Scripture, then are we guilty of violating the 2nd commandment by simply stating, “God is a God of love, and only love?” Why?
7. According to Phillip Ryken, “The Egyptians did not think that their gods actually lived in their idols, but they did think that idols gave them the kind of spiritual contact that would enable them to control their gods.” What things in our life do we use to manipulate God? Do you see that this is a violation of the 2nd commandment?
8. Why did God kill Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10:1-2?
9. Is it new to think that we should worship God scripturally? Why or why not?
10. How can we violate the 2nd commandment if we believe that church participation is optional?
11. Do you see worship as a commandment or an option?
12. Worshiping God is more than just doing the right thing; we must have a sincere heart. How does this challenge your worship? How can you prepare for worship so that you have a sincere heart?

*Final Application and Takeaways:*

1. How can I teach these things to family, friends, and coworkers?
2. How can I honor and glorify God based on these truths?
3. How can I grow in my understanding of who God is?
4. As a group, talk about how you can point each other to who God is this week.

**\*\*Close in a time of prayer focused on exultation and praise and thankfulness for who God is.**