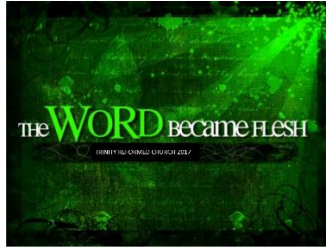


For Further Study January 22-28



The commandments begin by directing the people of Israel to begin with God.

Exodus 20:1-3

And God spoke all these words:

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before (besides) me.

Why do you think this is the first commandment? What does it mean for how we live?

Why do you think God included the reminder "I am the Lord you God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery?"

Often we are encouraged by the world to have "other gods". What are some of these "other gods" that have gotten the way of our relationship with God?

Putting God first means that we are not the center of all things, but that God is. How does taking the place of second in every situation of our lives relate to that first commandment?

What would it look like for you if in any and every situation you approached with the attitude "I am Second"?

- Second to God
- Second to My neighbor
- Second to my co-worker
- Second to my spouse

Read Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

*6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

*7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

*9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

How does this passage instruct Christians to live in relationship with others? What kind of attitudes and actions are required of the follower of Jesus?

How does this passage affirm the first commandment?

If God truly holds first place in your life, what “other gods” that you have been holding on to need to be removed from your life? Addictions, attitudes, actions?