

### No Graven Images – One of the Easy Commands?

Growing up and memorizing the Ten Commandments, the second commandment seemed so obvious that it's not even necessary to teach it today. Right? "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image" (Ex. 20:4). That's so "3,500 years ago"! Fast forward about 700 years from Exodus 20 and God's people had hung on to "the bronze serpent" Moses made in Numbers 20 to save the people from the fiery serpents, and for centuries they worshiped and "burned incense to it" (2 Kgs. 18:4). Something innocent had become a god to them. What about us?

Is there anything today (even something "innocent" in and of itself) that has become a graven image or mini-god to us? For some, the earth itself has become a god to be worshiped. For others, it's the remote control. Our phones. Our computers. Our social media. Our kids' ball games. Our jobs. Our prestige. Our money. Our credit cards. Our bucket list.

It is very easy for something to get in the way of our relationship with God. That's the purpose of the second commandment 3,500 years ago. What graven image do you need to take down? ~David Sproule

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him, we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:1-5)

#### Kennewick Church of Christ

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#### Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

#### Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; [ccbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



#### Follow the Example

Oh, how much easier things are when you have examples. When you are assembling something from Ikea for example. You saw it in the store. They had an example of a fully mocked-up room, and they showed you how the item could be used. You buy it, take it home, and start the process of assembling the item. The instructions are helpful, but sometimes it is good to see the actual, fully-formed item. To see how it all fits together and how it should function helps in the assembly. In a similar fashion, we have encouragement from the Scriptures to look toward good examples.

Paul writes, "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us" (Phil. 3:17). It is clear that Paul is not touting himself to be deity to be followed, just an example of one who walks with Christ. He wrote to the Corinthians, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). It is simple to see the concept. Reading Scripture gives us knowledge. Yet, seeing it lived out in others helps us to understand the application. This only works because there is a standard. In the above verse from Philippians, Paul uses the Greek word "tupos" for "pattern." It is the idea of a stamp or impression. It is a copy of the original. In the previous verse he wrote, "let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained" (Phil. 3:16). Translated from Greek, it literally reads, "by the same rule walk, the same thing think" (YLT). The concept of following the example of others carries with it the responsibility for us to make sure those we follow are following the same rule. There are a lot of bad examples out there.

"For many walk of whom many times I told you—and now also weeping tell—the enemies of the cross of the Christ! whose end is destruction, whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who the things on earth are minding" (Phil. 3:18-19). This is the accusation that Jesus had against Peter, "Get thee behind me, adversary! thou art a stumbling-block to me, for thou dost not mind the things of God, but the things of men" (Matt. 16:23). Peter didn't want Jesus to die for his own reasons. When we try to blend the will of heaven with our own fleshly will, we distort the pattern, and we are no longer good examples. We should be quick to discern between those who genuinely want to serve God and those that are serving their own gain.

It is clear that proper examples can be helpful. We all have the same instructions for life. Yet, seeing someone living them out is a great asset in our Christian walk. Beware of the bad examples around us. Compare them to the pattern given so as to divide between right and wrong. Then, be an example.

~ Josh Blackmer

**A good example has twice the value of good advice**

<i>Keep These Dates in Mind</i>	<i>October Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	
Nov TBD – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship 11/7 – Study of Denominations 7:00p 11/12 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 11/21 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 11/26 - Study of Denominations 7:00p	Pat Lindsay 11/1 Andre Downing 11/6 Sallie Winstead 11/7 Gary & Linda Bills 11/10 Holly Preston 11/29 Connie Stecker 11/30	<i>The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, That one may turn away from the snares of death</i>

**Those with ongoing health Issues:**

Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston

**Bible Studies**

<b>Adult Bible Classes</b> Sunday a – 2 Samuel Wed p – Gospel of John	<b>Young Adults class-</b> Teen Room (led by Danny Mendoza)	<b>Ladies Class</b> (Contact Sandi Gray for information)
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Let's give thanks that **Karen McBurney's family** have all recovered their health. Keep all those with ongoing conditions and struggles in our prayers. Keep **Gerald Funnell** in our prayers as he continues to recover. He enjoys visits and calls. See Clarence for details.



**I really like the idea of compassion over condemnation - it's the putting it into practice that always seems to trip me up.**

Komedy Korner

**Our Ministries**

**Mountain States Children's Home**

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

**Peru Ministry** – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

**Food Pantry** - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)

**Treatment of Sinners: Compassion or Condemnation?**

“Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?’ ” (John 8:3-5).

Without doubt, there is a lot of sin going on in our world. How do you react as you hear about how more and more sinful our society has become? How do you treat those so heavily engrossed in sin?

As the apostle John records Jesus’ earthly ministry, he notes how Jesus began to encounter opposition because He had healed a man on the Sabbath day (John 5:1-16; 7:21-24). As the opening text above shows, in order to try to entrap Him (John 8:6), the religious leaders who opposed Jesus now bring to Him a woman caught in the sin of adultery (John 8:3-5). How does Jesus react to her? Does He treat her with condemnation or with compassion?

Jesus reacts by stooping down and writing on the ground with His finger. John tells us that it appeared to some that He did not hear them, so they continue to ask Him what should be done with this sinful woman (John 8:6-7). Jesus stood up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first” (John 8:7). Jesus then stooped down again and wrote (John 8:8).

Those who had brought the woman to Jesus began to leave one by one as they were convicted of how callously they had treated her who had been taken captive in sin and how they had used her for their own purposes to try to get at Jesus. This left Jesus and the woman alone together (John 8:9).

As Jesus raised Himself up from the ground and then hearing the woman’s response to a question He had asked her regarding the location of her accusers and whether or not there was anyone left to condemn her (John 8:10), Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more” (John 8:11). Why didn’t Jesus condemn her? Clearly, she had sinned. Wasn’t the sin she had committed wrong?

Sin is wrong. It separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Those who die in sin will be forever separated from God (Romans 6:23; John 8:24). Clearly the woman was guilty and if she had remained in this state of sin she would be forever separated from God. But what did this woman need from Jesus at this hour? Did she need to hear Him add to her pain, at having been exposed and embarrassed for having committed the sin of adultery, by proclaiming His condemnation of her as well or did she need something else from Jesus at this hour?

Jesus knew this woman did not need Him to point out her sin. Everyone else had done that. She was well aware of her sin. Jesus knew this woman needed someone to be able to sympathize with her struggle with sin. She desperately desired someone to treat her with some compassion. The Hebrew writer reminds us that Jesus is compassionate towards those who have fallen in sin: “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

All of us have sinned and fall short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). As I look at other sinners who struggle with sin, I pray I may remember not to look down on them harshly in a condemning way. Today, I rejoice that Christ chooses to treat me with compassion not condemnation when I sin!

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley church of Christ

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not (Lamentations 3:22)