

Pre-communion service - 31/10/10 (am)

# **Putting God First**

Exodus 20:1-3

*Theme: God commands that we should have no other gods before Him.*

# The Prologue to the 10 Commandments

(Exodus 20:1-2)

*God spoke* all the words that are about to follow.

God reminded *each* Israelite of Who He was, *cf.* 20:2a.

God reminded *each* Israelite of what He had done, *cf.* 20:2b.

God was directing Israel how to live  
after deliverance!

*We must never put Sinai before  
Exodus!*

*cf.* Romans 6:17-19

# The First Commandment

Key words:

- *You* - Singular! Addressed to individuals!
- *gods* – this is not teaching that other real deities exist.

God is commanding Israel to  
acknowledge only Him.

Later God would explicitly teach that  
no other deities exist,

*cf.* Isaiah 45:21; 1 Corinthians 8:4.

*Today we have fuller revelation.*

There is only one true God.

He revealed Himself to us in the Scriptures and in Jesus, *cf.* Hebrews 1:1-3; John 14:9.

These truths do not sit comfortably in our post-modern and pluralistic age.

*before/besides me* - literally means  
*before my face* or *before my presence*.  
Everyone is always in the presence of  
God.

What does the first commandment  
say?

**Three points:**

# 1. God is a Jealous God,

*cf.* Exodus 20:5.

Some things are not to be shared!

God will not share His deity or glory  
with another.

**2. Because of sin all people have a tendency to make other things more important than God.**

If anyone or anything claims our primary loyalty that person or thing has become our *god*.

### **3. Everyone is called to put God first in every area of life.**

We are to actively seek to give God priority in every area of our life all the time, *cf.* Matthew 22:37-38.

We can only begin to do that when we come for salvation in His way: repentance of sin & faith in Christ.

So the first commandment is saying  
that

because God is a jealous God  
and desires the full affection of His  
most special creation,

He commands all people  
to always give Him priority  
in every aspect of their lives.

# Conclusion – the Commandment that is most Broken

*What each one honours before  
all else,*

*what before all things he  
admires and loves,*

*this for him is God.*

(Origen)

*Everyone breaks the first  
commandment more than any  
other commandment.*

*We must examine ourselves as we  
approach another communion  
season*

*(Exodus 20:3).*

*We are breaking this commandment!*

*Acknowledge this, identify how and  
repent!*

*Continually seek to put God first in  
every area of your life*

(Matthew 22:37-38).