

**"God and God Alone!"
(Exodus 20:3)**

Having experienced both God's awesome power and amazing love, the Israelites - now at the foot of Mt. Sinai - hear the "1st Word" of God's commandments, "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me!*" This is a foundational and indispensable truth for a successful life for them and for us also! Today we will consider the...

I. PRIORITY of First Commandment

(Joshua 24:14; 1 Samuel 8:8; Matthew 6:24, 31-33; 22:36-38)

- **Most Foundational**
- **Most Practical**

II. EXCLUSIVITY of First Commandment

(2 Samuel 7:22; Isaiah 46:9; John 6:68; 14:6)

- **Because of His Exclusive Love**
- **Because of His Exclusive Power**

III. NECESSITY of First Commandment

(Ezekiel 14:7; 17:9; 1 John 5:21)

- **Must Know Your Heart (Condition)**
- **Must Guard Your Heart (Care)**

**"God and God Alone!"
(Exodus 20:3)**

Small Group Discussion Guide

1. Share something from Sunday's message that especially challenged you.
2. Why is it so important that we make the 1st commandment the top priority in our lives personally? Corporately (as a church)? How does the 1st commandment test our faith and trust in God?
3. A famous Hollywood actor said, "I can't see serving a God who says, *"You have to acknowledge me as the best"* - It seems all about His ego!" How would you respond to that statement? Is it wrong for God to demand or even expect our exclusive loyalty to Him? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think John closes his epistle with a charge to "keep ourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21)? What are some potential "idols" that can bump God off His throne in our hearts? How can we cooperate with God to "knock down" the idols in our lives?
5. What is the difference between having God first on a list of things we give our time and energies to, and having him at the very center of our lives? (Consider the circle chart from Sunday's sermon)

Digging Deeper

1. How do the following verses warn us about possible idols in our lives: Matthew 6:24, 31-33; 10:37; 16:24-25; 19:29; Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17.
2. Consider Job 1:8-12 and how Job's loyalty to God was tested. Prayerfully recommit to truly obey the 1st commandment by TRUSTING Him in times of suffering and testing.
3. For Next Week: Read Exodus 20:1-6 several times and memorize the 2nd commandment. Consider how Israel's violation of this resulted in God's chastening them harshly with captivity in a foreign land – Deuteronomy 28:32, 41; Jeremiah 11:9-12; 16:10-13; 25:11-12 and 2 Chronicles 7:19-20.