

# The First Commandment

Black Text is taken from the book:  
*"Keeping the Faith"*  
Terry K. Dittmer





# Right and Wrong: Is There a Difference?

- God's Word tells us that by nature human beings have "the requirements of the law" written on their heart.
- *(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that **the requirements of the law are written on their hearts**, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) Romans 2:14-15*



# Do we Understand Right and Wrong?

- We do have some natural ability to tell right from wrong.
- However, sin makes our understanding of right and wrong blurry.
  - We don't make decisions correctly.
  - We compromise on the Law because it may be more convenient or advantageous to us.



# Are Sins Relative?

- Some say, “If no one gets hurt, it’s okay.” No blood, no foul. With that kind of attitude, you can get away with a lot.
- Sometimes we make some sins worse than others. Murder, in many people’s minds, much worse than swearing.
- The truth is, all sins would be rightfully punished by eternal damnation.



# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- What are the Ten Commandments?
  - The Ten Commandments are the Law of God
- How did God give His law?
  - When God created people, He wrote the Law on their hearts. Later he arranged the Law in Ten Commandments, wrote it on two tables of stone, and made it known through Moses.



# God Give Man His Law

- Because humans see things a little blurry, God gave His law to Moses on Mount Sinai.
- Here's the Movie Version...

Watch Moses receiving the Ten Commandments (1956 movie)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoFSpoAbXLc>



# Three Kinds of Law

- There are three kinds of laws in the Old Testament: the moral law, which tells all people their duty toward God and other people; the ceremonial law, which regulated the religious practices in the Old Testament; and the political law, which was the state law of the Israelites.
- Only the moral law was written into the human heart.



# The Two Tables

- The Ten Commandments are God's design for living and the foundation of human society's best laws
- God's law can be divided into two tables
  - Both tables are about life and relationships
  - The *First Table*, commandments 1-3, is about our love for and relationship with God.
  - The *Second Table*, commandments 4-10, is about our love for and relationship with other people.
- The Summary of the Law is Love...





# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- What is the summary of commandments 1-3 (First Table)?
  - Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matt. 22:37; see Deut 6:5)
- What is the summary of commandments 4-10 (Second Table)?
  - “and the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39; see Lev. 19:18)



# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- What is the summary of all the commandments?
  - Love is the summary of all the commandments
- Whom does God mean when in the Ten Commandments He says, “You shall”?
  - He means me and all other human beings.



# Uses of the Law

- First Use: Offers a model for how to form civil government
- Second Use: Shows us our sin. Acts as a mirror.
- Third Use: Shows us how to act with our Christian freedom, which was won for us on the cross.



# The First Commandment

- **YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS.**
- What does this mean?
  - We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.
- There is one God! We are to worship God alone!
  - To worship other gods is idolatry.



# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- Who is the only true God?
  - The only true God is the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one divine being (the Holy Trinity).
- What does God forbid in the First Commandment?
  - God forbids us to have other gods (idolatry).



# Idolatry – not just a



- Coarse Idolatry – believing in or worshiping a creature or thing as God.
  - Golden calf
  - Buddah
  - Movie stars, rock stars, athletes
  - Satan



# Idolatry – not just a



- Refined Idolatry – putting something else first in your life other than God.



- Maybe even yourself.



# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- When do people have other gods?
  - When they regard and worship any creature or thing as God
  - When they believe in a god who is not the triune God (see the Apostle's Creed)
  - When they fear, love, or trust in any person or thing as they should fear, love, and trust in God alone.



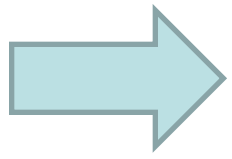


# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- What does God require of us in the First Commandment?
  - We fear God above all things when we revere Him alone as the highest being, honor Him with our lives, and avoid what displeases Him.
  - We love God above all things when we cling to Him alone as our God and gladly devote our lives to His service.
  - We trust in God above all things when we commit our lives completely to His keeping and rely on Him for help in every need.



# WVE – Fear God?



Worldview Everlasting  
“Got Wisdom?”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCChf9neZvU> 18



# Why People Believe in God

- They say “Someone, something had to put this all together. It must be God.”
- They think there has to be a higher power. The universe is too wonderful, too complex, too mysterious for it to be left to “evolutionary” chance.
- People believe in God because other people say there is a God.
- Intuition – A strong feeling that there has to be something greater, more powerful than people.



# Conscience

- Conscience also says there is a god
- Conscience is knowing a right and a wrong and someone or something will hold you accountable.
- Conscience is natural knowledge, a judge within a person.
- **Only the Bible gives true, reliable knowledge of God.**



# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- Who is able to keep this and the other commandments?
  - No person can keep any or all commandments, except Jesus Christ. All those who have faith in Him by the power of His Spirit willingly strive to keep these commandments.



# The Bible Reveals Truth

- The Bible reveals the truth about the eternal God
  - Nature may tell us there is a God: The Bible tells us who he is.
  - Nature tells us we are sinful: the Bible tells us of our salvation.
  - Natural knowledge tells of God's judgment and justice: the Bible tells of God's love in Christ.
- When it comes to God, no one has to go without the truth. God's Word is truth.



# What Does the Bible Say About God?

- God is Spirit, a person without flesh and blood.
- God is not a principle, an idea, or a law. God is a personable being. He is conscious of himself.
- He loves good and hates evil.
- He can see us. He knows us individually (**from before we were born**). He hears and answers our prayers (**yes, no, wait**).



# Attributes of God

- He is *Spirit*. He is a personal being without a body.
- He is *eternal*. He has no beginning. He will never end. There was never a time that God wasn't.
- He is *unchangeable*. He is always the same. He doesn't change his mind.





# Attributes of God

- He is *omnipresent*. He is everywhere at the same time.
- He is *omnipotent*. He is all-powerful and can do all things.
- He is *omniscient*. He knows everything.
- He is *holy*. God has no sin. He is perfect in every way.
- He is *just*. He is fair and impartial. He treats everything without bias. He rewards righteousness and punishes evil.

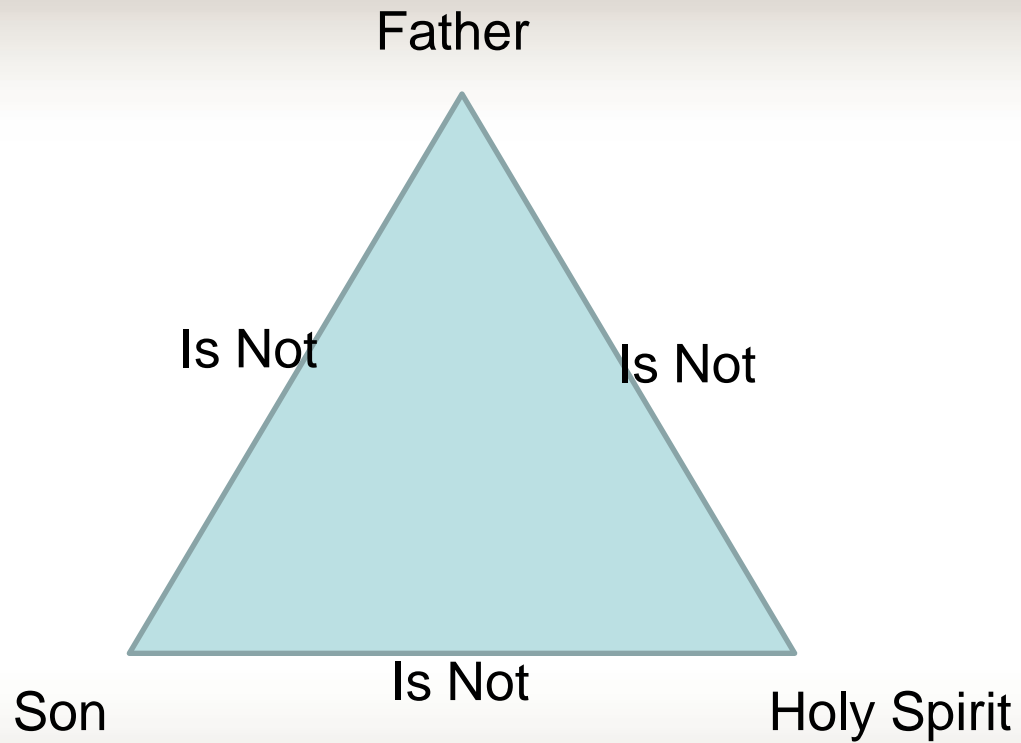


# Attributes of God

- He is *faithful*. God sticks with His people through thick and thin. He keeps His promises.
- He is *benevolent*. He is kind of generous.
- He is *merciful*. He shows His steadfast love and compassion.
- He is *gracious*. God gives His undeserved kindness without question. He is forgiving.

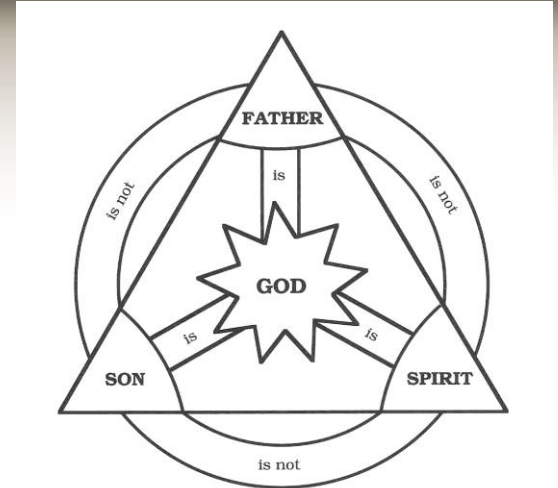
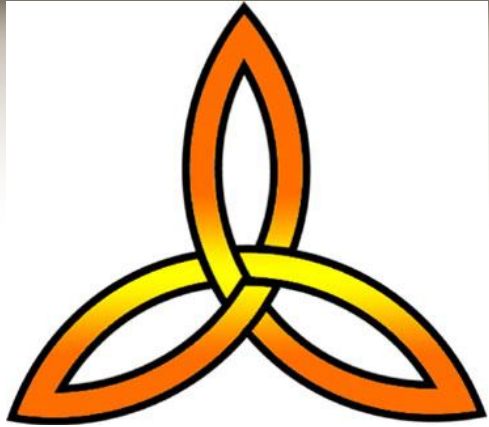


# The Triune God





# Trinity Symbols





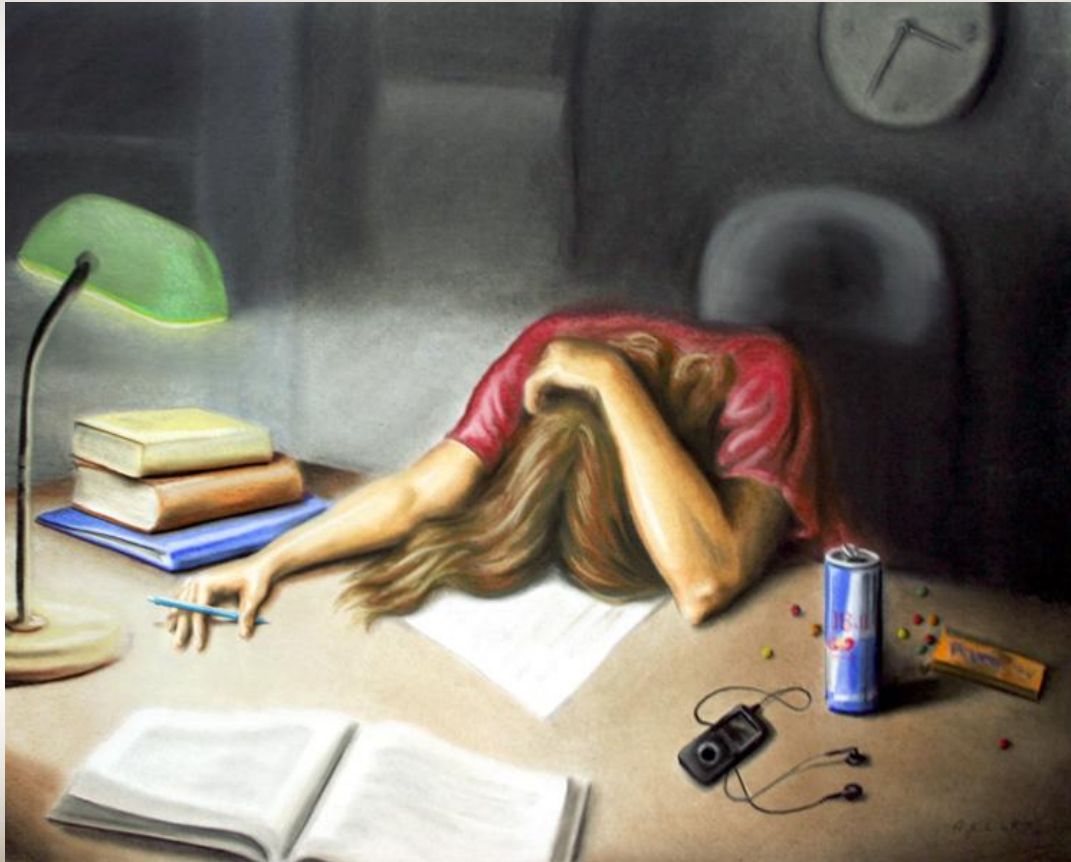
# How do we Respond to God?

- *Fear.* We are not afraid of God. Instead, fear is respect, homage, standing in awe of God's majesty and holiness.
- *Love.* God is first in our lives. We love Him, cherish His Word, obey Him with grateful hearts.
- *Trust.* We believe God's promises. We know He will do what He says. We don't put our hope on false promises or gods.



# Memory Work

- Remember to keep up or else:





# One More Time

- **YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS.**
- What does this mean?
  - We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.