

# New City Catechism: Question 9

**Question:** What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

**Answer:** First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works.

## Deut. 6:13-14

It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- I. How has evangelical Christian culture justified ways to violate any of the first three commandments?
- II. The inclusion of the phrase "do not worship God improperly" in the second commandment, probably captures the heart of the commandment for modern Christians far more than the idea of a physical idol. What does improper worship look like?
- III. When Jesus summed up the Law (which would definitely include the ten commandments) with the greatest commandment (Mt. 22:36-40) he stated positively, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind." Does the framing as a positive command clarify something missing from the negative prohibitions of the ten commandments?
- IV. Why is it proper for God to be jealous for our worship (Exodus 34:14)?

