

AM Sermon Notes

Text: *Exodus 20:4-6*

Title: *Don't Love Your Stuff!*

Central Truth: We are not to try to represent God with any kind of man-made image nor are we to bow down to or serve any earthly things.

I. vv. 4 & 5a: The Prohibited

v. 4: **Not** - Literally in the Hebrew text this is the first word in the verse. This placement makes it emphatic! KJV - **graven image**, NASB & NIV - **idol**, NKJV - **a carved image** (Hebrew - *pesel*) It refers to anything that is carved, hewn or cut out of wood or stone to worship.

v. 5a: KJV & NIV - **bow down**, NASB - **worship** - This word means to bow down, to stoop or crouch before something thus to worship it. *Romans 1:21-25* discusses such idolatry.

II. v. 5b: The Protected

c.f. Exodus 34:14, When the perfect and infinite God calls Himself “**jealous**” obviously it means something good! God can only be holy, perfect and good. “**Zealous**” would probably be a better translation for us today given “**jealousy**” has acquired such a negative meaning. Like a loving husband toward his wife, God is zealous for and over us!

III. v. 5c & 6: The Projected

v. 5c: Often times children suffer terrible consequences due to their parent's sin against God! It is a very serious matter concerning how we treat God (*cf. 2nd Chronicles 26-28 - Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz*).

v. 6: KJV - **mercy**, NIV - **love** (Hebrew-*hesed*) This word is difficult to translate because of its depth and richness in meaning. One English word cannot fully convey it. God loves us and He wants us to love Him back!

Applications:
