

## LESSON 9: LOVING GOD MOST OF ALL

God Himself told us in the First Commandment, “I am the Lord your God. You shall not have other gods before Me.” In this commandment, He asks us to know that He is the one, true God and to love Him above all things. The other gods that God told us not to worship are everyday persons, places, or things (money, pleasures, toys, good clothes) that can lead us away from Him. God does not want us to be superstitious, as it would insult our Lord instead of giving Him Glory.

The Second Commandment is: “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain”. We are to speak about God in a reverent or loving way. Jesus taught us a prayer that we use at every Mass. “Our Father, Who are in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name...” Hallowed means Holy. Jesus promised, “Whatever you ask in My name will be done”.

The Second Commandment also tells us to respect holy places and things. In the church, we can show love for God by quietly listening to the priest, we can look at the tabernacle or Jesus on the crucifix and pray; we should genuflect and make the sign of the Cross when we arrive and leave. At other places, we can praise God by telling Him silently that we believe in Him, hope in Him and love Him most of all.

### Questions and Answers

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| 1 | <p><b><i>What are we told positively to do by the first commandment, “I am the Lord your God; you shall not have any other Gods before Me”?</i></b></p> <p>The first commandment commands us to be religious, that is, to believe in God and love Him and serve Him as the one true God, the Creator and Lord of all things. We should not create gods of power, prestige, money, fame, wealth, beauty, etc..</p> |
| 2 | <p><b><i>What does the first commandment prohibit?</i></b></p> <p>The first commandment prohibits impiety, superstition, irreligious behavior; and, in addition, apostasy, heresy, voluntary doubt, and inculpable ignorance of the truths of faith..</p>   |
| 3 | <p><b><i>What is forbidden by the second commandment?</i></b></p> <p>The second commandment forbids us to dishonor the name of God, that is, to take His name in vain without respect’ to blaspheme God or the most Holy Virgin, the saints or holy things, and to swear oaths that are false, not necessary, or wrong in any way.</p>  |
| 4 | <p><b><i>What are we ordered to do by the second commandment?</i></b></p> <p>The second commandment orders us to maintain always a reverence for the name of God, and to fulfil the vows and promises to which we have bound ourselves.</p>   |

### Words to Know:

**Superstition:** thinking that ordinary things have powers that only God has.

**reverent:** showing respect.

**respect:** to think highly of.