

- Q45. Which is the first commandment?
A45. **The first commandment is, *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.***

Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7

Notes:

DQ1: Who is “me” referring to in the First Commandment?

DQ2: Who is “no other gods” referring to in the First Commandment?

Notes:

In the First Commandment, “me” clearly refers to Jehovah God and the Redeemer of God’s people who delivered them from the slavery in Egypt. “Other gods” clearly refer to anyone else or anything else beside Jehovah God. From the New Testament explanation, we know that “other gods” also refer to anyone or anything that we might love more than God. Such a spirit or behavior violates the First Commandment.

The First Commandment is the most important of the Ten Commandments. It would not be wrong to conclude that if one could truly keep the First Commandment, then the remaining nine Commandments could also be kept. It is true that if you break one command, you have broken all commands because you the requirement of God perfection. It is also true that if you cannot keep the First Commandment, then you have no way of keeping any others. The question is: “how do you go beyond the First Commandment?” We cannot without first clearing understanding the requirements of the First Commandment.

The First Commandment makes it plain that God is God and we are His creation. To know God is not to know who you are. Why are so many people “lost”? It is because they do not know who they are because they do not know God and who He is to them. The lost person, above all people, is to be pitied most. The First Commandment makes it absolutely clear that **GOD IS**. Many people deny God and his existence. And then, there those who forget about the existence of the Creator. They do so because they do not accept the authority of the Word of God.

The First Commandment is what God wanted to declare first to His people. It declares first that God is totally unique and that there is no other God period! This is an absolute statement. There is no room for any other explanation. God did not want to leave any doubt in the minds of His people. His command is clear! By His authority, He has declared that there is one true God. **GOD IS!**

Matthew 6:24 says “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” Please consider this passage carefully. God does not desire that your heart be torn between Him and someone else or something else. God desires your decision and determination to follow Him alone. Joshua, in observing the swaying of the people of God, said: “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)

The First Commandment demands your decision and determination today! Are you ready to respond to the demand? If you are unable to do so, what is keeping you from doing so? We must ask and answer these questions before moving on.

True faith does not waiver or tossed to and fro. True faith serves only one true God. To serve other gods is to hate the one and true God. That is a blatant sin.

Matthew 6:33-34: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble on its own." This passage teaches that our **FIRST** must be seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness. It also teaches that God will take care of "all these things." At first glance, it can seem appear that the roles of God and people are reversed. But, the passage expresses God's method. God desire His people to depend upon Him entirely. Only then, will God be "obligated" to be responsible for us. Therefore, our first order of business is to observe the First Commandment by serving Him alone.

Who is the true master of your heart and possession today?

Is Jehovah God the master?

Or, is there another who is the master over your life?

Ask of yourself how well you are keeping the First Commandment and write down what you consider your spiritual state is *vis a vie* the First Commandment. If you find yourself not obeying God as commanded in the First Command, how would you go about becoming more obedient to God?
