

Q48. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?
A48. These words before me in the first commandment teach us, that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

1 Chronicles 28:9; Psalm 44:20-21, 134:1-3; Deuteronomy 30:17-18, 32:16; Hebrews 4:13

DQ1: What does God call it when one has another god before Him?

DQ2: How does God feel when one has another god before Him?

DQ3: Could you serve with all of your life Jehovah God? Please explain.

DQ4: Why would God be much displeased with you if you served another god?

DQ5: Are you committed to living your life to obedient to the First Commandment? If so, what does that mean to you? Please explain.

Notes:

God is certainly worthy to give the First Commandment. It also makes sense that the one and only true God would make such a demand. To have another god before Him is to oppose Him because there cannot be another true God. Yet, the world is steeped in despicable sin in this regard. Violating the First Commandment is to commit the most serious of sins. And yet, so many so lightly treat the First Commandment and have displayed their contempt for the First Commandment. God's people certainly must not take the First Commandment lightly. In Chronicles 28:9, King David gave a stern warning to his son, Solomon as follows: "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever."

One reason why one must be fearful of violating the First Commandment is God is jealous and much displeased with the violators. God is love and patient but God will not overlook the sin of breaking the First Commandment. No man can withstand the wrath of God poured upon such a sinner. It would be like being swept away by tidal waves and tsunamis. Destruction would be too fearsome and certain.

Until and unless the First Commandment truly commands our lives, we are unlikely to be able to serve or give our lives to God. Our passion is generally aroused when we are convinced and convicted. Without passion, we cannot give our all. The degree of commitment to serve God is directly related to the degree of conviction that God is the one and only true God.

God's displeasure at the First Commandment violators makes perfect sense. God alone is love and is able to demonstrate His love. Out of love, God created man. Out of love, God sent His one and only Son, Jesus Christ to save the sinner. In looking back, man's fall was the most serious betrayal of God. In Eastern thoughts, betrayal is considered the greatest "sin" anyone could commit. In fact, those who betrayed their masters or teachers were not even treated as people. They were considered not deserving of any dignity whatsoever. They were to be treated like

animals. God became angry at the betrayal of man and His anger turned into His wrath which could not be stopped. Yet, God's love (Agape) was able to fully address God's sense of justice to punish the sinner.

It is a precious thing to keep the First Commandment. How shall we then live? How will the First Commandment impact our heart, mind and action? How could we possibly overcome the Tempter without keeping the First Commandment? Our focus on God is not possible unless we make the First Commandment our top priority.