

“Have no other gods before Me.”

God was not kidding when he said, “You shall have no other gods before me.” God demands first place in the lives of each of us!

Satan’s success rate in opposing God is staggering! Satan keeps most sinners loving the world, and he steals allegiance to God among Christians. God refuses this allocation, and he should.

God must be first because he deserves it. Our God, who made us, who is "jealous" over his possession, the church, refuses to be demoted, displaced, or replaced by other gods (Exodus 20:3; 2nd Cor. 11:2-4). God knows when he has been placed on the back-burner. He knows when our hearts belong to something else. He demands commitment (Heb. 11:6). He demands our hearts (Matt. 22:37-38).

God must be first in our worship. Do you worship God? First, I’m not talking about “church services.” I’m talking about daily worship, such as Daniel, David, and New Testament Christians...worshipping in daily prayer, daily Bible reading, daily meditation, and daily praising. Do you? Here’s what displaces worship to God: materialism, power, pleasure, entertainment. To the max these things are being worshipped, for which abundant sacrifices are being made. God is thought to be unworthy of one’s time and offerings. These other god’s are coming before Almighty God. God is not pleased. God must be first in worship, daily and in the assembly.

God must be first in our daily thoughts. Good or evil starts in the heart. The more we know God and think about Him, the more we relate to him. So, what are we allowing to rule our thoughts? Many thoughts are driven by idle words of friends, 24-hour news media, TV, radio, music, etc. David wrote, *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”* (Psa. 19:14) We need to think about God more, so he is convinced he is first.

God must be first in our daily conduct. Our conduct is mostly on the honor system; we get to decide what it will be. Peter wrote, *“He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, Be holy, for I am holy.”* (1st Peter 1:15-16). Here’s the honor system...If we conduct ourselves in a holy manner, God is honored, and he is glorified! Let’s make God first in our conduct.

God must be first in our finances. We need to realize God is not a part of our finances, our finances are a part of God! It shocks the senses to know that some people spend more on dogs than they invest in the business of God. New Testament Christians, having received the spiritual gifts of God, willingly gave material gifts to the poor among the saints. (Rom. 15:26-27). Some of the most complimented givers in scripture were poor themselves: the widow (Luke 21:1-4), the Macedonians (*“in the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality, For I bear witness that according to their ability yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing....but they first gave themselves to the Lord”* (2nd Cor. 8:2-5). God must be first in our finances.

God must be first in our families. It is revealing to ask children, “What is the most important thing to your mom or dad?” Will they think God is first? We may be trying to sell our God on our loyalty, when even our children don’t buy it. Our families are successful only if members serve *“one another in the fear of God”* (Eph. 5:15-33). If education, sports, hobbies, TV, or food outrank God, our children will have distaste for Jesus and his spiritual food. The father and the mother must be examples of godly fear. God must be first in our families.

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