



## **NUMERO UNO**

### **Exodus 20:1-3**

*Then God gave the people all these instructions: <sup>2</sup> “I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. <sup>3</sup> “You must not have any other god but me. <sup>4</sup> “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. <sup>5</sup> You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. <sup>6</sup> But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands. <sup>7</sup> “You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. <sup>8</sup> “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> You have six days each week for your ordinary work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy. <sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup> “You must not murder. <sup>14</sup> “You must not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> “You must not steal. <sup>16</sup> “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. “You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.”*

- *“Then God instructed the people as follows: ‘I am the LORD your GOD, who rescued you from slavery in Egypt. Do not worship any other gods besides Me!’ (Exodus 20:1-3)*
- **What do I like and dislike about guidelines and rules - what would life be like without guidelines and rules?**
- **The 10 Commandments are guidelines and rules for our lives, but they are also “values” that enhance our lives.**
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment teaches us the necessity of “prioritizing GOD as God in our lives.”**
- **Some people struggle with believing that there is a GOD.**

- *“From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that GOD made. They can clearly see His invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuses for not knowing GOD.”* (Romans 1:20)
- *“Only fools say in their hearts, ‘There is no GOD.’”* (Psalm 14:1)
- **Some people struggle with believing that GOD really cares about people.**
  - *“I trust in the Lord. I will be glad and rejoice in Your unfailing love, for You have seen my troubles, and You care about the anguish of my soul.”* (Psalm 31:6-7)
  - *“GOD showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”* (Romans 5:8)
- **Some people struggle with believing that GOD can change the circumstances and lives of human beings.**
  - *“I pray you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him . . . the same power that raised Christ from the dead.”* (Ephesians 1:19-20 TLB)
- **The biggest problem for most human beings, however, is that they want to “put other ‘gods’ before the GOD in their lives.**
- ***What are some “gods” that people worship in our day and time, and how can we begin to put GOD first in our lives?***

## WHAT ARE SOME “GODS” PEOPLE WORSHIP IN OUR DAY?

### *Some People Worship:*

- **THE GOD OF “SELFISM”**
  - We worship this “god”, when we focus on the trinity of “me, myself and I” and we put our “feelings” at the forefront of our mentality.
  - Commitment to GOD and others is the only thing that helps us put this “god” out of our lives.
  - We are to love ourselves, but not worship ourselves by primarily focusing on our dreams, desires and wants.
  - Jesus - *“If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me.”* (Luke 9:23)
- **THE GOD OF “THRILLISM”**
  - We worship this “god” when pleasure and experiences are our chief objectives in life.
  - GOD wants us to have “thrills” in life – but He wants us to experience our pleasure within parameters.
  - *“You (God) will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forever more.”* (Psalm 16:11 NKJV)
- **THE GOD OF “POSSESSIONISM”**
  - We worship this “god” when having things and having “more” is our chief objective in life.
  - GOD blesses many people with wealth and possessions - but He always wants us to prioritize Him over our desire for those things.

- *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in GOD, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” (1 Timothy 6:17)*
- **THE GOD OF “KNOWLEDGEISM”**
  - **We worship this “god” when education is our chief objective in life.**
  - **Education is extremely helpful – but it is not the key to success in life.**
  - *“Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” (1 Corinthians 8:1 NIV)*
- **THE GOD OF “SUCCESSISM”**
  - **We worship this “god” when achievement and recognition are our chief objectives in life.**
  - **People can be successful in some areas of life but failures in other areas.**
  - Jesus – *“Seek first the kingdom of GOD and His righteousness, and all these other things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)*
- ***Which of these ‘gods’ do I sometimes struggle with, why do I struggle with them, and what could be some consequences of prioritizing these “gods” in my life?***

## **HOW CAN WE TAKE SOME STEPS TO PUT GOD FIRST IN OUR LIVES?**

***We Need To Put GOD First In:***

- **OUR FINANCES**
  - Solomon said - *“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)*
  - **In the Scriptures God constantly tells us that money is a test of our priorities (Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:21-24; 1 Timothy 6:9-10).**
  - *“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.” (Deuteronomy 14:23 LB)*
- **OUR INTERESTS**
  - **GOD wants to be “first” in our businesses, careers, hobbies, fun-times, recreation, etc.**
  - *“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of GOD.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)*
  - **Our “priorities” are discerned by observing what we’re excited about or talk about the most.**
- **OUR RELATIONSHIPS**
  - **GOD’S desires for our lives are to come before those of our family members or friends.**
  - Jesus – *“Those who love their father or mother or their son or daughter more than Me are not fit to be My disciples.” (Matthew 10:37 TEV)*
  - **GOD blesses our relationships when He is the first priority in our lives.**
- **OUR SCHEDULES**
  - *“Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the LORD wants you to do.” (Ephesians 5:17)*
  - **We put GOD “first” in our schedules when we: 1) Make and keep a daily “appointment” with GOD (Luke 10:38-42), 2) Prioritize worshipping Him**

weekly with other Christians (Hebrews 10:22-25), and 3) Ask the LORD to direct us as we put together our daily “to do” lists.

- **OUR TROUBLES**

- **The LORD should be the first one we turn to when we are facing difficulties in life!**
  - *“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)*
  - **The LORD is willing and able to answer any prayer and meet every need when He is “first” in every aspect of our lives.**
  - Jesus - *“Don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your Heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of GOD above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” (Matthew 6:31-33)*
  - **We know the LORD is “first” in our lives when we no longer struggle with “worry” in our lives.**
- **What steps do I need to take to put God first in my Finances, Interests, Relationships, Schedule and Troubles?**
  - **Why did GOD give us this First Commandment?**
  - *“Our God is in the heavens, and He does as He wishes. Their idols are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands. They have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see. They have ears but cannot hear, and noses but cannot smell. They have hands but cannot feel, and feet but cannot walk, and throats but cannot make a sound. And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them. O Israel, trust the Lord! He is your helper and your shield.” (Psalm 115:3-9)*
  - **Only GOD can bring us the satisfaction, significance and security we’re looking for, and He will only give us what we want and need when He’s first in our lives.**
  - Jesus – *“Seek the Kingdom of GOD above all else (that means “put God first”), and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” (Matthew 6:31-33)*