

First Commandment

I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods.

Read Exodus 20:2-6 & Romans 1:19-25, Luke 10:27

1. Can you identify any idols in your life?
2. In what ways are these people/things idols?
3. How does it make you feel to recognize that you might have a number of gods in your life that are not the one true God?
4. Martin Luther said that when we fulfill the First Commandment, all the other Commandments are fulfilled: we love God and we love our neighbor. When we break the First Commandment, all the other Commandments fall, too. Discuss why it is you think Luther would say such things. Do you agree or disagree with Luther?
5. The words immediately following the First Commandment, in Exodus 20:5, give us more to grapple with when it comes to the First Commandment: "For I the Lord am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me."
 - a. How does this verse make you feel?
 - b. Is God's jealousy (He wants your heart all to himself) a bad thing?
 - c. Does this verse in Exodus seem fair?
 - d. Is there any example in Scripture where God is fair or is he unfair?
 - e. How is God treating you unfairly the same as God forgiving you? Is being forgiven a fair thing or is it something you don't deserve?