

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORDS OF OUR Lord, “Adore the Lord your God and worship Him alone” (Matthew 4:10)?

These words mean to adore God as the Lord of everything that exists; to render to Him the individual and community worship which is His due; to pray to Him with sentiments of praise, of thanks and of supplication; to offer Him sacrifices, above all the spiritual sacrifice of one's own life, united with the perfect sacrifice of Christ; and to keep the promises and vows made to Him.

In what way does a person exercise his or her proper right to worship God in truth and in freedom?

Every person has the right and the moral duty to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and His Church. Once the truth is known, each person has the right and moral duty to embrace it, to guard it faithfully and to render God authentic worship. At the same time, the dignity of the human person requires that in religious matters no one may be forced to act against conscience nor be restrained, within the just limits of public order, from acting in conformity with conscience, privately or publicly, alone or in association with others.

What does God prohibit by his command, “you shall not have other gods before me” (Exodus 20:2) ?

This commandment forbids:

- *Polytheism and idolatry, which divinises creatures, power, money or even demons.
- *Superstition which is a departure from the worship due to the true God and which also expresses itself in various forms of divination, magic, sorcery and Spiritism.
- *Irreligion which is evidenced: in tempting God by word or deed; in sacrilege, which profanes sacred persons or sacred things, above all the Eucharist; and in simony, which involves the buying or selling of spiritual things.
- *Atheism which rejects the existence of God, founded often on a false conception of human autonomy.
- *Agnosticism which affirms that nothing can be known about God and involves indifferentism and practical atheism.

Does the commandment of God “you shall not make for yourself a graven image” (Exodus 20:3), forbid the cult of images?

In the Old Testament this Commandment forbade any representation of God who is absolutely transcendent. The Christian veneration of sacred images, however, is justified by the incarnation of the Son of God (as taught by the Second Council of Nicea in 787 AD) because such veneration is founded on the mystery of the Son of God made man, in whom the transcendent God is made visible. This does not mean the adoration of an image, but rather the veneration of the one who is represented in it: for example, Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Angels and the Saints.

The second commandment:

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

How does one respect the holiness of the name of god?

One shows respect for the holy Name of God by blessing it, praising it and glorifying it. It is forbidden, therefore, to call on the Name of God to justify a crime. It is also wrong to use the holy Name of God in any improper way as in blasphemy (which by its nature is a grave sin), curses, and unfaithfulness to promises made in the Name of God.

Why is a false oath forbidden?

It is forbidden because one calls upon God who is Truth Itself to be the witness to a lie.



“Do not swear, whether by the Creator or by any creature, except truthfully, of necessity and with reverence.” (Saint Ignatius of Loyola)

It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk