



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

June 30, 2024

“The 2nd Invitation Challenge: Worship the Creator, not the Creation”

*“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them...”
(Exodus 20:4-5a, NIV)*

A Bumper Sticker. Do people think the 2nd Commandment is outdated because we don't worship “graven images” any more? Some years ago I saw a bumper sticker on a neighbor's car: **“Worship the Creator, not the Creation.”** That pretty well sums up the 1st and 2nd Commandments: love and serve God. I think people in the US today have no trouble recognizing the Bible's admonition against worshipping false gods. Today there are many forms of idolatry which can subtly infiltrate our daily lives.

Consumerism. In our society there is tremendous pressure on us to acquire “things.” Sure, there are necessities, but beyond those we are bombarded with advertising for non-essentials. The 2nd commandment causes us to evaluate our buying habits: how often do we catch ourselves “impulse buying”? how about internet purchases late at night while watching TV commercials? Has Black Friday shopping and Cyber Monday ordering become almost a religious pursuit? Are we unconsciously prioritizing material goods over our ethical values and spiritual needs? I think the 2nd Commandment invites us to break away from unfulfilling consumer habits to find deeper satisfaction from our Creator...and not material creations.

Celebrity Worship. Idolizing celebrities and social media influencers can lead to an unhealthy sense of self-worth. We live in a culture of intense focus on celebrity. “American Idol”, “Caitlyn Clark”— we can go on with our list! When we see the value of emulating celebrities, we can lose our sense of self. The reality that “God created mankind in his own image...” (Genesis 1:27) is lost. The 2nd Commandment invites us to stop our unhealthy comparisons to prominent public figures.

Technological Idolatry. Today people find themselves overly attached to their devices, social media, and virtual realities. This attachment can become a form of idolatry, taking time and attention away from our personal relationship with God and from building relationships with our families and friends. The 2nd Commandment invites us to re-evaluate how we use technology, encouraging a balanced approach that fosters authentic, real-world connections and spiritual reflection.

Concluding Thoughts. Material idolatry is very subtle – it's completely unrecognizable if we live mindlessly, unconscious of our harmful behaviors. Modern idolatry quietly consumes our thoughts and time, taking time away from putting God before us. The second commandment invites us to focus on what truly matters: our relationship with God, ethical and moral living, and authentic human connections. By resisting modern forms of idolatry, we can break free of unfulfilling paths and habits, and we can lead more balanced, fulfilling lives that honor God first.



Prayer Box: pray for healing for Linda, Elizabeth, Joyce, Debbie, Joe, Holland, Gail, Mia, Patti, Florence, and John; pray for relieve from the wildfires in New Mexico and California; pray for those souls affected by flooding in Oklahoma and the Gulf Coast; pray for first responders; pray for an end to the divisiveness our country; pray for peace in the Middle East.

Lord, hear our prayers!

www.raquettelakechapel.org