

**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 35, "Right Worship, Part 1"**

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 32:1-14

<b>Lesson Aim</b>	To understand: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What the second commandment is</li><li>2. What the application of this commandment is at Mt. Sinai</li><li>3. What the application is today</li></ol>
<b>Steps to Learning</b>	Read the <a href="#">Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 35</a> and <a href="#">Exodus 32:1-14</a> . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
<b>Discuss</b>	<p><b>What is the second commandment and where is it found?</b> "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God 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, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments." <a href="#">Ex. 20:4-6 and Deut. 5:6-8</a></p> <p><b>How are we to interpret the second commandment?</b> The Heidelberg Catechism, Q/A 96 says, "That we in no way make any image of God, nor worship him in any other way than he has commanded in his Word." This is known as the "regulative principle." We are not to worship idols (something carved by human hands) or images (any representation or form like pictures or drawings, etc.).</p> <p><b>How can we understand Israel breaking the second commandment at Mt. Sinai according to Exodus 32?</b> Israel broke the first commandment by making the golden calf, but they also broke the second commandment by worshipping the calf. The context helps us to understand that Israel was nervous, out of sorts, and frightened because God was on Mt. Sinai amidst thunder, lightning and fire. Out of their need to worship, they attempted to worship the true God through the idol of gold. Israel used an idol that was more accessible, something they could touch and didn't demand too much.</p> <p><b>How are we to apply the second commandment today?</b> First, we should never create idols and worship them as if they were God. Second, in corporate worship in church, we must always do what God has commanded us to do and never use innovations. We must design a liturgy that honors the holiness of God and keeps people in their place as servants to the great King. We must never ask what people want to do. Because God is fearful and has the right to judge people, the worship service must be focused on Jesus Christ.</p>
<b>Bible Reading</b>	<a href="#">Mark 1-7</a> (Reading through the Gospels)