

The 1st Commandment

You shall have no other gods before Me.

What does this mean? This means that we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

According to St. Paul, There is no God but one (**1 Corinthians 8:4**). People have many gods but there is only one true God, the Triune God of the Bible, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This Commandment forbids us to worship anyone or anything else as a god because that is idolatry. It requires us to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. Now, we don't see too many idols made of wood or stone or gold anymore. But the Explanation to the Small Catechism says that people have other gods *when they join in the worship of one who is not the triune God* (p.59). There was a young lady at the Baptist seminary I went to who came to class one Monday telling us about an "inter-faith" service she had been to that weekend. She said that it was great. There were people of all faiths there, Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and many others. And they were all worshipping together. I was wondering, "Who were you worshipping?" St. Paul also says in **2 Corinthians 6:14**, *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers*. When she was at that worship service, do you know who she was really worshipping? The god of Diversity, that says that all religions are of equal value and should be treated equally. The truth is, they are not equal because there is only one God. You see, when we take things from other religions and make God in our own image, we're saying that He is not enough. But God is the Almighty Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. He is all we need. That's what the First Commandment is about.