**I Am the Lord Your God**

**The Passage**

Read together Deuteronomy 5:1-15

**The Big Idea**

In the midst of the idols of the surrounding culture, God calls his people into an exclusive covenant relationship in which he is first and foremost in the hearts of his people.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. We talked a lot about idolatry on Sunday. The following idols were put forth as the big three in our culture: wealth, achievement, and status. As you consider our culture, are there any other idols that would make your top three?

2. We talked about our “disordered attachments” and the profound anxiety, anger, or resentment that can surface when our attachments are threatened. As you consider that dynamic, what disordered attachment(s) comes to mind for you personally?

3. On Sunday we talked about the fact that God’s firm boundaries against other gods (the “no’s” of the first 3 commandments) need to be set within the resounding “yes” of our relationship with God. Pursuing a passionate relationship with God is the best antidote to idolatry. As you consider your summer, what are one or two ways you can more intentionally pursue a life-giving and joyful relationship with God?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. The 10 commandments

A. The 10 commandments hold a special place in the OT story, covenant, and history of civilization

 B. Imagine a world in which people obey the 10 commandments

II. The context of Idolatry

 A. Israel was moving from the idolatry of Egypt to the idolatry of Canaan

 B. Modern Day Idolatry

 1. We exchange the Creator for the creation (Romans 1:25)

 2. The big 3: Wealth, achievement, and image

 3. “Disordered attachments”

4. *Before the Lord God made man upon the earth He first prepared for him by creating a world of useful and pleasant things for his sustenance and delight. In the Genesis account of the creation these are called simply "things." They were made for man's uses, but they were meant always to be external to the man and subservient to him. In the deep heart of the man was a shrine where none but God was worthy to come. Within him was God; without, a thousand gifts which God had showered upon him. But sin has introduced complications and has made those very gifts of God a potential source of ruin to the soul. Our woes began when God was forced out of His central shrine and "things" were allowed to enter. Within the human heart "things" have taken over. Men have now by nature no peace within their hearts, for God is crowned there no longer, but there in the moral dusk stubborn and aggressive usurpers fight among themselves for first place on the throne. –A.W. Tozer*

III. God’s desire for our hearts

A. God’s firm “no” to any other gods/idols

 1. 1st commandment (v. 7)

a. This is not primarily a philosophical issue about our view of things (monotheism vs. polytheism) but rather a covenantal issue (where’s our heart’s allegiance and loyalty?)

b. We are called to root out unhealthy attachments to anything that might get in the way of our relationship with God

2. 2nd commandment (v. 8-9)

a. Just because we don’t currently make figurines and worship them, this command still applies

b. We need to consider any tangible created thing we might put before God

 B. God’s resounding “yes” to him

1. The commands are set within the context of God’s gracious salvation

a. “I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of slavery” (v. 6)

b. God rescued Israel and brought them into relationship with himself before they had obeyed any of the commandments. Grace comes first.

2. The Sabbath command calls us to remember that great act of gracious deliverance (v. 12-15)

 a. Israel never got a day off work in Egypt

b. Enjoying the Sabbath every week would be a tangible weekly reminder of the freedom God had given them. It would be a way to connect with their creator and savior and pursue that relationship.

3. The great antidote to idolatry is not just saying no to idols but pursuing a passionate and joyful relationship with the true God

IV. Conclusion

A. Cultural Christianity

1. Christianity is simply an ethical code or set of abstract principles to live by. Simply take the principles and apply them to your life

2. The problem with this is you don’t need a relationship with God to do that. You can do that on your own. Also, that kind of life doesn’t usually address the deeper idols in your heart.

B. Covenant Christianity

1. Not primarily about a set of abstract principles but rather a living dynamic relationship with God. Our main desire is not simply to apply principles to our lives but rather to walk with God

2. In our walk with God we are constantly asking him to root out the idols deep within our hearts so that he alone reigns.