



[Exodus 20:4-6](#)

(4) You shall not make for yourselves any graven image, or any likeness of *anything* that *is* in the heavens above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the waters under the earth. (5) You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, the LORD your God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, (6) But showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

A Faithful Version

The natural mind cries out for something to "help" it [worship God](#), but nothing in man's limited imagination can measure up. So any time a man devises an [image of god](#) other than the true [God](#), a predictable effect will occur. Asaph writes of this effect in [Psalm 78:40-41](#): "How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert! Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." A human mind will limit God. How can anyone rationally think that a creation of man can be any greater than man?

[II Timothy 3:1-2](#), 5 adds a sobering note for those of us living at the end. "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will . . . [have] a form of godliness but [deny] its power. And from such people turn away!" Limiting God creates [idolatry](#) because we must turn to another source if we want to be delivered from what is unsettling us. Do we limit God by failing to use His counsel in [dating](#), [marriage](#), [child training](#), [healing](#), or [tithing](#) because we fear it will not work or by refusing to humble ourselves to try His way?

The real basis of idolatry, other than ignorance, is that self-willed man refuses to surrender himself to worship God as He commands. Remember, worship is our response to God, and it occurs in many ways every day. For example, to tithe is not only to obey, but also to worship, since it is our response to God's command.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Exodus 20:4-6 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

To learn more, see:

[The Second Commandment \(1997\)](#)

Related Topics:

[Idolatry](#)

[Image of God](#)

[Limiting God](#)

[The Second Commandment](#)

[Worship](#)

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