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TITLE: “**WORSHIPING GOD’S WAY**”

Series: “Back to Basics” Number 2 of 10

Exodus 20:4-6

**INTRODUCTION:**

This commandment has been considered by many Americans as the most irrelevant of the ten. Yet, one theologian points out there are more references to this commandment in the Bible than to any of the others, which should be an indication of its great and lasting importance. It is obvious from an overview of scripture that it was relevant in the Old Testament. The New Testament makes it clear that it was relevant during the New Testament times. We recently finished a study of I John, which closes with the words, “Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.” I John 5:21. This commandment is more relevant than many realize, for it speaks to us about worshipping God’s way. We are not just called to worship; we are called to worship God’s way.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Majestic background or picture of worship) British philosopher, Roger Scruton, insightfully writes, “God is defined in the act of worship far more precisely than he is defined by any theology.”**

**I. (v.4) WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP A GOD WE CANNOT MAKE OR CREATE**

**(Exodus 20:4) “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.”**

1. The first commandment commands us to worship only the one true God.
2. It is foundational and basic in our lives to put God first.
3. The second commands us to worship Him as He would be worshipped.
4. We are the handiwork of God, but the true God is not the handiwork of man.
5. The commandment is clear that we are not to make for ourselves an idol.
6. We are to worship the true God in the way He wants to be worshipped.
7. The Hebrew word, ‘pesel’ translated “Graven Image,” or idol means something hacked or chiseled into some ‘likeness.’
8. God is very clear about idolatry with His people.
9. The scripture says **“You saw no form of any kind the day the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol...” (Deuteronomy 4:15-16)**
10. There is room for only one true God.
11. Idols will never measure up to the glory of God.
12. The Psalmist points out the difference between idols and the one true God. **“But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. O house of Israel, trust in the Lord-he is their help and shield. (Psalm 115:4-9)**
13. Idolatry, whether ancient or modern, is the futile attempt to look for our lives to anyone or anything other than the one true Creator and Provider.

14. Idolatry is putting our trust in anyone or anything other than the true God.

15. God is a living God and any carved statue is necessarily lifeless.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*\*Prop- bring from home) Amanda likes stuffed animals and real animals. There is a considerable difference between the two. Some years ago, we were at a drug store on Catalina Island when Amanda saw something she wanted. She had saved her money and decided she wanted to spend it on this one item. It is a fake cat that makes you think it is alive. They put it in a pet box for her and she walked around with people thinking she had a live cat in the box. I remember one lady that "ooed" and "awed," and said how cute it was. We told her it was not real, but she looked at us strange. She saw the cat breathe, so she thought it was real. She never did get it. But it was still not alive.**

16. Idols may look like something, but they are just an illusion.

17. People have been caught into worshiping other gods, and even though you tell them they aren't real, they still don't get it.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Background with this quote) One writer highlighted the seriousness of idolatry when he said, "It is much worse to have a false idea of God than no idea at all." (William Temple, quoted in Context (Sept. 15, 1989) Christianity Today)**

18. Only a living God can represent Himself.

19. The instruction is clear that we are not to make our own representation of God, for God does not allow anything to represent Himself to men.

20. Nothing but God Himself can represent the true God.

21. God is so wonderful that no effort of man to depict Him is adequate.

22. God is bigger than any image we could make of Him.

23. The Almighty, Omnipotent, Holy, Divine God cannot be represented by a man-made idol.

24. Just like the world cannot be stuffed into a shoe box, the Almighty God cannot be made to fit in any man-made representation.

25. Nothing can stand in the place of the true God, so don't make for yourself an idol.

26. We can never craft with our hands that which will satisfy and fill the void of the heart.

27. An idol is a material thing, and the very thingness of the thing reveals its limitation.

28. It is a finite thing; it is a limited thing, a poor and impossible substitute for God who is indeed infinite in all of His perfections.

29. We cannot make an idol, for we would be in danger of attempts to project, obscure or control God through possession of some localization of His presence.

30. To make an image of God is to attempt to bring God down to a human level.

31. Whenever we try to chisel our own image of God, we chisel away at the true God.

**"All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame."**

**(Isaiah 44:9)**

32. We are makers of things by nature of our humanity.

33. Put a child in a sandbox and he or she will most likely try to make something.

34. Put a child in a play room with Lego's or blocks and they will try to make something.

35. With God, no assembly is required and none is possible.

36. God is the complete package and does not need an idol to represent Him.

37. When we start trying to make an image of God, we end up molding our own God.

38. The trend of many is to want to take the best of philosophy and religions and make their own god to worship.
39. We have been studying the characteristics of God in our classes, for God wants to speak for Himself and reveal who He really is.
40. Later in this chapter, we read, **“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the Israelites this: You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.’” (Exodus 20:22-23)**
41. He will make His own manifestation and be His own representation.
42. We can not make an idol of God because we cannot give a correct representation of God.
43. The Apostle Paul depicts an idol as the result of man’s ignorance of and substitution for the true God.  
**“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.” (Romans 1:22-23)**
44. The object of our worship always becomes the master of our behavior.
45. This is a law of human nature, inasmuch as God made us to worship and live for Him.  
**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Background with this quote) “Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that is meant to be worshiped.”(Augustine)**
46. The sin of idolatry, whether in the age-old worship of nature or in the modern worship of ourselves, is consequently the same: worshiping and serving the creature rather than the Creator.
47. Idolatry is about trying to worship God in my own way.
48. Paul continued writing about those who exchange the true God for idols saying,  
**“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-who is forever praised. Amen.” (Romans 1:25)**
49. Let us pray for an idol-free life.
50. The second commandment has a timeless message in its insistence on the invisibility, the immateriality, and the spirituality of God.
51. God is the speaking God and the incomparable God.  
**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Majestic background) Walter C. Smith captured the essence in his poem when he wrote, “Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light in accessible hid from our eyes.”**
52. God wants us to have a right image of Himself.
53. Our service to God will be directly related to our image of Him.
54. Our love for God will be directly related to our image and worship of God.
55. We need a healthy image of God.  
**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Picture of prayer, etc.) “Help me to discard all false images of Thee, whatever the cost to my comfort.” (Anthony Bloom)**
56. We cannot make a graven image because the image can take the place of God.
57. Many have ended up in idolatry who never had the intent of committing idolatry.
58. Idolatry is making means into an end.  
**Example: In Numbers 21:6 -9, when the snakes were biting the people, the Lord told Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When they looked at the bronze snake, they lived. In II Kings 18:4, Hezekiah removed the high places,**

**smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronzed snake Moses had made, for up to that time, the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan)**

59. An idol is anything that becomes a replacement for God in our lives.

60. The very essence of idolatry is that it is the worship of a thing instead of the worship of a person; the dead idol has taken the place of the living God.

**ILLUSTRATION: Michelangelo said, "Look within the marble to discover what is there, then sculpt it accordingly."**

61. We look within our heart and then make a god of it.

62. Our god is money, possessions, hobbies, achievements, etc.

63. Anything that we make in the place of God is an idol.

64. We are often so quick to replace God with something tangible.

**EXAMPLE: When Moses was with God, the people told Aaron to make them gods who would go before them. They said, "This fellow Moses, who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what happened to him."**

65. They had replaced God with Moses, and now they were replacing God and Moses with an idol cast in the shape of a calf. Moses and Aaron and a golden calf.

66. Buildings are built to provide places for worship, but sometimes the buildings become more important to us than the God we worship in them.

67. Many tools are used in worship of God, and whether those tools are buildings, music, activities, ministries, or other elements of worship, they have through the years become more important than the God that we worship through them or with them.

68. When traditions, methods, programs, and buildings become too important or too valuable, they blind us and distract us from the true God of our worship.

69. Many people are not in churches today because people, programs, personalities, music, and a variety of other things got in their way of the God of their worship.

70. The central issue in this second commandment is the nature of legitimate worship.

**ILLUSTRATION: Dave Davila, age 24, took a job in Chicago and had to leave his close-knit family in East Moline, Illinois. But, family gatherings just weren't the same without Dave. So, his mother took a digital photo of him and had it blown up to his actual height—5 foot 8 inches—and mounted it on heavy cardboard from a neighbor's new stove box. So there's Dave, standing casually, hands in pockets, a blue button-down shirt hanging untucked over his khaki shorts. They all call him Flat Dave. At first, Flat Dave just showed up and stood quietly by at family gatherings. Then, word spread throughout the community, and he became something of a celebrity in East Moline. "Complete strangers wanted to pose with him," said his brother Dan. He also said, "I think Flat Dave's actually better looking." Sometimes things got somewhat awkward for the real Dave—the one the family now calls Thick Dave. "I'm in Chicago talking to my mom on the phone, and she says, 'Hold on, I've got to load you into the van.' It's a little weird." (Rex W. Huppke, "Meet Flat Dave. He's a Real Stand-Up Guy," Chicago Tribune (July 2, 2006); submitted by Lee Eclov, Vernon Hills, Illinois)**

71. There is no replacement for the true living God.

72. God is everywhere, so He can represent Himself.

**“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.” (Psalm 139:7-10)**

73. I am called to worship the God who cannot be made by human hands.

74. The call is to know and worship God as He really is.

75. We are called to worship a God we cannot make or create.

## **II. (v.5) WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP A JEALOUS GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH**

**(Exodus 20:5) “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...”**

1. This underscores Yahweh’s demand to be worshiped as He is.
2. God cannot be put into a box.
3. God is not forbidding any type of imagery which brings God to our mind.
4. However, He is forbidding what is supposed to be God to us.
5. Something may remind us of God; but we shouldn’t deliberately create something to represent God to us.

**ILLUSTRATION: Years ago, when Campbell Morgan pastored Westminster Abbey, there were several vacant places where images once stood. They were removed not because they were statutes, but because lamps were burned in front of them and worshippers knelt before them.**

6. This commandment is a call for true spiritual worship.

**EXAMPLE: In John 4, there is the eye-opening story of Jesus and the woman at the well. They talk about worship. Jesus was telling her that worship won’t take place because you are in a certain place. “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24)**

7. God is Spirit and so true worship takes place in spirit and truth.
8. True worship happens because of the spirit of God.
9. There is the subtle danger that unless I am in a certain place with a certain group of people going through a certain form and doing certain things, I cannot get in touch with God.

**ILLUSTRATION: I had relatives of mine that had really fallen out of the church. I had dinner with them and ministered to them. They wanted to pray at the altar of a Nazarene church. The worship center was being used and they were disappointed. I said, “Let’s go over here in the office. God is speaking to you; that is all you need.” We prayed and victory came. The report came back confirming the victory of God in this situation.**

10. It is the Spirit of God that makes the difference for worship.

11. The transition from worshiping God to worshiping an idol is very easily made.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*\*John draw cartoon – Funny cartoon of people greeting one another in church during the greeting time) A person came to me one Sunday years ago and said, “Pastor my worship was wrecked today,” I said why. He said,**

**“We didn’t greet people today. I just could not worship because I didn’t get to greet the people.”**

12. Something had gotten in the way and replaced the Spirit.

13. Hold onto the God of faith and not let it be reduced to a God of sight.

14. We are to pray and seek idol-free worship.

**“Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.” (I John 5:21)**

15. Worship takes place because of the Spirit of God.

16. God alone is worthy of our worship.

**EXAMPLE: The prayer, “Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.” captures the essence.**

17. We must not allow anything to distract us from the God of our worship.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*\*PROP – a big red bow, a yard or so in length, if possible, though 1-2 feet would be fine) (\* can you find a picture of this) When it comes to our attitude toward God in worship, I have often found Christians to be like the woman in the Lexus TV commercial. On Christmas morning, she finds a full-sized luxury SUV in her living room. The vehicle is topped with a gigantic, picture-perfect red ribbon. Turning to her husband with a look of astonishment on her face, all she can think to ask is, "Where did you get a bow that big?!" She has a fully equipped SUV in her living room, yet she is transfixed by an ornament. A decoration has distracted her from the real mystery.**

18. Is it possible that we can become focused on incidentals when we gather to celebrate all God has for us in Jesus Christ?

19. Don’t focus on the bow of music, bow of style, bow of personality, building, or the bow of money.

20. Lay it all on the altar.

21. God is a jealous God who will not share His place or position.

22. This passage gives the insight that any compromise of such worship leads inevitably to a divided or even redirected loyalty that Yahweh has every right, even every obligation.

23. In the Old Testament, Yahweh’s zeal is very closely related to His holiness and is demanded by who He is.

24. He is a jealous God who demands a worship that befits His own character and identity.

**“I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.” (Isaiah 42:8)**

25. The God of the Bible is a jealous God.

26. If we were imagining God or making up our own idea of God, we would only ascribe to Him characteristics which we admired.

27. Yet, we are not making up our own idea of God.

28. We are seeking to know God as revealed in scripture.

29. The God of the Bible is a jealous God.

**Deuteronomy 4:24 reads, “For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”**

30. The word jealousy does not refer to an emotion so much as to an activity.

31. It is not seen as intolerance, but exclusiveness.

32. This characteristic springs both from the uniqueness of God (who is not one among many) and the uniqueness of His relationship to Israel.
33. The jealousy of God flows out of His covenant love for His own people.
34. When God says His name is jealous, He is saying that He demands from those whom He has loved and redeemed absolute loyalty.

**Exodus 34:14 tells us, “Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”**

35. As the great lover of men, it matters very much to Him how we think of Him.
36. As a husband is jealous of the love of his wife, so is God jealous of our love.
37. As Ray Ortlund Jr. makes so clear, the big problem here is that Israel will commit spiritual adultery.
38. Because God is jealous, He responds to the faithless among His people who fall into idolatry and sin.
39. Reading the following passages will open our eyes to the seriousness of sin and unfaithfulness to a God who is jealous.
40. God will not share His place of worship.
41. God is calling for pure worship.

**ILLUSTRATION: One person writes, “For most of my growing-up years, my father’s father lived next door to us. Or, I should say, we lived next door to him. Pop was there first. ... About once a month or so, Pop would take us all out to lunch after church on Sunday. It was generally good fun to go to lunch with Pop. For one thing, he brought my grandmother, whom I dearly loved. The only bad part about Sunday lunch with my grandfather was question time. It was always the same question, and I always dreaded it. First, he would cock his head around and get me in his sights. ‘Boy,’ he would then say, ‘what did you get out of the service today?’ I was a teenager, and most Sundays, what I got out of the service from up in the balcony where I sat with all my friends was very different from what he got out of the service up on chancel in the song leader’s chair or in the front row, where he sat for years after hanging up his song leader’s hat. In about eight year’s of Sunday lunches, I do not think I ever got the right answer, not as far as he was concerned. Years later, I finally have a good answer for my grandfather’s Sunday question. ‘Boy, what did you get out of the service today?’ ‘It was not even for me. It was for God,’ I wish I had known to say.”**

42. Worship is for God, who is spirit
43. Worship must be in spirit and truth.
44. God, the jealous God, wants all of our worship.

### **III. (v.5) WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP WITH AN AWARENESS OF OUR INFLUENCE**

**(Exodus 20:5) “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.”**

1. Generations in early Israelite society married and settled in the immediate vicinity of the parental home.
2. Given the usual age of marriage, the aged head of the family would normally have four generations living in close proximity and being influenced by him.

3. This would be bound to be harmful if he had an inadequate concept of God, as shown by his use of images in worship.
4. Once a certain lifestyle is adopted by parents, one which may go either away from God or toward God, certain factors are set in operation, which naturally affect their children and their children's children.
5. Bowing down or worshipping idols would impact the children and following generations in a negative way.
6. False forms of worshipping the Lord inevitably had consequences for future generations, for it meant that children and grandchildren would not be instructed properly concerning the covenant relationship, which was essential to their life and well-being.

**Example: When Moses went to chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones scripture says “And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generations.” (Exodus 34:6-7)**

7. Your worship is full of influence.
8. In verse 5, we see the negative impact.
9. Sin carries consequences.
10. The words, “those who hate me” refer to failure in covenant loyalty to God.
11. Breaking their promise to have known no God but Him, they show that they “hate” Him by holding Him in contempt, which results in a deserved judgment across generations.
12. Those who hate God would detrimentally affect the succeeding ones, for they would grow up with an idolatrous example and environment.
13. Those who hate God will leave an impact on others.

**ILLUSTRATION: On October 22, 1996, in St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church in central London, a congregation of some two hundred people, described the next day by the British newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, as "admirers," gathered to celebrate the life of the famous twentieth-century English novelist, Sir Kingsley Amis. The paper described it as "a secular service: no hymns or prayers, just a lot of laughter." During the service, the late Sir Kingsley's son, the novelist Martin Amis, told the following story, recalling a conversation his father had with the Russian poet and novelist, Yevgeni Yevtushenko. “Yevtushenko, perhaps having mistakenly assumed all Englishmen are Christians, asked Amis if it was true that he was an atheist. ‘Well, yes,’ said Sir Kingsley, and then added, ‘But it's more than that. I hate him.’”**

14. We will pass on something to the next generations.
15. Indifference to God is contagious in a family and in a society.
16. When one generation makes idolatrous choices, it becomes easy for the next generation to go a step further with idolatry.
17. What are we passing on to our children?
18. The church must get back to the basic of realizing the significance and consequences of what we pass on to others.

**(\*Picture) “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)**

19. Actions matter.
20. What we pass on in the church matters.
21. What we pass on in our families matters.
22. What we pass on in the nation matters.
23. Don't pass on to children a wrong conception of God.
24. This passage calls for a wholesome check on parents' conduct.
25. This passage calls for a wholesome check on the church's conduct.
26. The life of worship we model and pass on is what our children and the future generations are learning.

**“Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.” (Deut 4:9)**

27. Parents must take responsibility for what they pass on to their children.
28. The church must take responsibility for what we pass on.

**“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship.”**

**Romans 12:1**

29. Are we passing on lives that are living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.
30. We must look at our own lives and what we are passing on.
31. In verse six, we see the positive opposite of what we can pass on.
32. Those who show love, putting God first and keep commandments, have the positive impact.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Picture of garden etc.) If you wish to enrich days, plant flowers; if you wish to enrich years, plant trees; if you wish to enrich Eternity, plant ideals in the lives of others.” (S. Truett Cathy)**

33. We can pass on love for God and the keeping of His commandments.
34. Pass on pure worship to our young people.
35. Worship in ways that please Him.
36. I am the product of some godly people who modeled a love and worship of God for me.
37. I am the product of godly people who taught me and showed me by example to keep God's commands.
38. True worship makes a positive impact in the lives of others.
39. Your worship makes a difference to others around you.
40. You make a difference through your influence, positive or negative.
41. Godly or ungodly speech.
42. Godly or ungodly attitudes.
43. Pure or polluted worship.
44. Our obedience will have a positive impact forever.
45. Keeping His commandments goes beyond the moment.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Mrs. J.J. Allen, N.C., tells how her son had a favorite pasttime of playing store. He had shelves filled with an unusual collection of merchandise. On the door, he recently posted some interesting signs, one telling the hours of his store, one listing some special bargains, and another one which read: "Closed on Sundays, see you in church." She was touched as she read it, for she realized that her husband, who was a businessman, had the same sign over his business. Her son had learned from his father.

46. The life we live is influential.

**IV. (v.6) WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP THE GOD WHO SHOWS HIS LOVE "but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments." (Exodus 20:6)**

1. The first few words of verse six must not be missed or forgotten.
2. They show the other side of the coin.
3. They reveal the wonder of God's love and grace.
4. To those who love God and show evidence of that love by keeping His commandments, He will show mercy.
5. The word, 'thousands' is used vaguely, like myriad's in English, to indicate the limitless extent of the mercy shown by God."
6. God loves us.
7. Only God Jehovah loves us like that.

**John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

8. When you worship Jehovah you know you are loved.
9. Regardless of what is taking place in your life or what is going on, you know you are loved.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*words on screen) I remember one day, while I was working in my office, I heard singing outside my window. With enthusiasm, as he put tape and paper on the window to prepare for painting, he sang, "Oh, how He loves you and me. Oh, how He loves you and me. He gave His life. What more could He give. Oh, how He loves you; Oh, How He love me; Oh, how He loves you and me." God sent me a message through another person again, I was loved.**

10. God's love is visible.

**"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)**

11. His love is easily seen at the cross.

**"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."(I Peter 1:18-19)**

12. It is through the blood of Christ that we are made new.

**ILLUSTRATION:** In January, 2008, a story made the rounds about a 15-year-old girl in Australia named Demi-Lee Brennan. Brennan became the world's first known transplant patient to change blood types from O negative to O positive, taking on the immune system of her organ donor. At first, the doctors assumed someone had made a mistake, because it's always been assumed that a change like

that can't happen. Now they say she's a "one-in-six-billion miracle." The blood stem cells in Brennan's new liver invaded her body's bone marrow, taking over her entire immune system. She now has an entirely different kind of blood—blood that welcomes life, rather than carrying death. "It's like my second chance at life," she said.

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (II Corinthians 5:17)**

13. Because of God's love, we have new life.

14. It is experienced at the altar of surrender through faith in Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION: (\*Put words of song on screen with appropriate background)**  
The day I was writing this section of the message, I led the staff in singing an old familiar song during our weekly prayer time: **“Jesus loves me, This I know, For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, They are weak, but He is strong.”**  
**Chorus: “Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.”**

15. Regardless of what is taking place in our world, Jesus loves us.

16. Worship is loving Jesus, but we love Him because He loves us.

17. Worship is responding to His love.

18. Have you responded to His love?

**CONCLUSION:** We are not just called to worship, we are called to worship God's way. Are you the worshipper God wants you to be? Are you worshiping His way?

**I. (v.4) WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP A GOD WE CANNOT MAKE OR CREATE**

**II. (v.5) WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP A JEALOUS GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH**

**III. (v.5) WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP WITH AN AWARENESS OF OUR INFLUENCE**

**IV. (v.6) IV. WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP THE GOD WHO SHOWS HIS LOVE**