

A Jealous God

As God delivered his address, including the Ten Commandments, to the Israelites, he gave them very clear instructions about worship. And that expanded to even more detail with the construction of the tabernacle and delivery of details of the law. Take a few minutes to examine the following questions and passages, seeking to understand where sin might be creeping into your own camp.

Exodus 20:1–7

1. In Exodus 20:5, how does God describe himself?
2. Why is it appropriate for God to be jealous for his own worship?
3. How does God respond to the two types of people described in verses 5 and 6?
4. What does it look like to take God's name "in vain"?

1 Corinthians 10:14–22

5. How does Paul describe participation in pagan worship practices?
6. How does this passage relate to God's character?

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1

7. In this passage, what is the key principle Paul is communicating to the Corinthian church?
8. How does Paul describe pagan spiritual practices?
9. Considering all of these passages, is there any practice or thought in your own worship (or within your church) that has been borrowed from a source outside of God's Word?
10. How might practices like prayer labyrinths, prayer charms, and prayer to saints compare to how the Israelites looked to the golden calf as the one who delivered them from Egypt?