



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Fear, Love & Trust

Law/Gospel

Just as the Israelites sinned by failing to trust in God and instead worshiped an idol, in the same way, I sin by worshiping my own idols over God: money, relationships, success, and everything I put ahead of Him.

The one true God meets all my needs today just as He did for the Old Testament Israelites. Most especially, God tends to my spiritual needs through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, and for His sake, He forgives my sins and gives me eternal life.

Take-Home Point

God commands that I put Him first.

Bible Words

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Matthew 22:37

From the Catechism The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1–20

Despite repeated evidence of God’s love, strength, and faithfulness, the Israelites seemed to put their fear, love, and trust in anything except the Lord. They offered God complaints, impatience, and infidelity.

At Mount Sinai, the people tired of waiting for Moses to return from his mountain-top meeting with the Lord. They asked Moses’ brother Aaron to make a golden calf. He did, and they said, “These are the gods that brought us out of Egypt!” Aaron declared the next day a feast day. The people ate, drank, and partied to honor their new god.

God sent Moses back down the mountain to deal with the people. When Moses saw the revelry, he angrily broke the two stone tablets God inscribed with His Law. He burned the gold calf, ground it to powder, scattered it on water, and made the people drink it. Then Moses called those on the Lord’s side to join him. The sons of Levi, his own tribe, responded. Moses sent them into camp to restore order; 3,000 people died.

Moses confronted the people for their great sin and returned to the Lord to attempt to atone for them. God held the people accountable for their sin and sent a plague, but continued to be with them.

We may judge the Israelite infidelity, but despite more evidence of God’s goodness, we behave no better. The First Commandment says to fear, love, and trust God above all other things. Yet we fear poverty and steal. We perceive our Lord’s love as unsatisfactory and sinfully seek approval from others. We love and covet what God gives to others. Ultimately, we trust ourselves, and we sin by doing what God promised to do for us.

God’s Son, Jesus, loved God above all others. Although God Himself, Jesus feared God by obeying His Father in heaven, even if it displeased others or sent Him to the cross to atone for our sins. Through His sinless obedience and death on the cross, Jesus forgives our sins and frees us to live with God in fear, love, and trust.

Prayer

Lord God, guide us to fear, love, and trust in You alone.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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