

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

"You shall have
no other gods
besides Me."

Exodus 20:2-3



How Christians Strayed from the First Commandment of the Bible While True Muslims Worship God Alone

The Messenger of God, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) made clear his status among mankind when he said, **“Do not exaggerate in praising me as the Christians have exaggerated the praise of Jesus son of Mary, for I am only a servant, so say, ‘He is the servant of God and His Messenger.’”**¹ And God (the Most High) stated in the Qurān, **“Say, ‘O People of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), come to a word that is equitable between us and you—that we will not worship except God and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of God.’”** (Qur’ān 3:64)

The First Commandment as stated in the Bible is the saying of God, **“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods besides Me.”** (Exodus 20:2-3) So, this is the God of Moses (peace be upon him) and this the same God who sent Jesus as His servant and Messenger—not as a god to be worshipped (or as His son). Furthermore, in the New Testament, the First Commandment is reiterated: **“Jesus declared, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”** (Matthew 22:37-38) So, Jesus (peace be upon himself) confirms the Lord of Moses, who is the sole God worthy of worship and love.

Many Christian theologians and scholars also recognise that only one God, the Lord and Creator of all existence must be worshipped. The German theologian Martin Luther, a seminal figure in the Protestant Reformation (died 1546 CE) stated: **“[Idolatry] consists not merely in erecting an image and worshipping it, but rather in the heart, which stands gaping at something else, and seeks help and consolation from creatures, saints, or devils, and neither cares for God, nor looks to Him for so much good as to believe that He is willing to help, neither believes that whatever good it experiences comes from God.”**²

1] Al-Bukhārī, no. 3445.

2] The Large Catechism III, Part First: The First Commandment, Translated by F. Bente and W.H.T. Dau Published in Triglot Concordia: The Symbolical Books of the Ev. Lutheran Church, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1921, pp. 565-773.

See wikipedia.org: Thou shalt have no other gods before me

John Calvin, French theologian, pastor and Protestant reformer (died 1564 CE) said, **“We know that when the Israelites worshipped their Baalim (numerous local deities), they did not substitute them in the place of God as to put Him altogether aside, and assign to them the supreme power; nevertheless, this was an intolerable profanation of God’s worship.”**³ Calvin in his writings reminds the Christians of the warning of Moses to the Israelites against the worship of any other gods besides the Lord of all existence, **“You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, for the Lord your God in the midst of you is a God demanding faithfulness and exclusive worship, otherwise the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.”** (Deuteronomy 6:14)

“You shall not make for yourself an idol or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath.”

Exodus 20:4

Despite this, Christians insist on the worship of Jesus son of Mary (peace be upon them both). In this, they contradict the scriptures, they contradict their claim to monotheism, and they oppose the teachings of Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all). Furthermore, the Bible states, **“You shall not make for yourself an idol or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.”** (Exodus 20:4) And this forms the basis of the Second Commandment.

However, Christians have made images of Christ, call him ‘God’ and ‘Lord Jesus’ and they openly worship him, and yet they claim they are monotheists and worshippers of the one Lord of creation! According to the Bible, God said to Moses (peace be upon him), **“You saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spoke with you out of the midst of the fire.”** (Deuteronomy 4:15) The famous English Puritan and theologian Thomas Watson (1686 CE) commented, **“How can anyone paint the Deity? Can they make an image of that which they**

3] John Calvin, Harmony of the Law: Part 1, The Law: The First Commandment.

never saw? It is impossible to make a picture of the soul, or to paint the angels because they are of a spiritual nature; much less can we paint God by an image, who is infinite. To worship God by an image is both absurd and unlawful.” (The Ten Commandments, 1692 CE)

As Muslims, we believe that Angels are actually a physical creation, but nevertheless, Islam forbids making images and statues of Prophets, Angels or any of God’s creatures that have a soul whether human or beast. Christians seem to have no such qualms. They make images of Prophets, Angels and God yet they have never seen them. Furthermore, they were forbidden from making such depictions in scripture. What is baffling is that they make statues and images on pure guess-work and conjecture since they do not know what Mary (may God be pleased with her) looked like, nor Jesus Christ or the Disciples (let alone God), yet they make image after image and statue upon statue from their whims. Each country, even each township has its own depictions. In some countries, Jesus is portrayed and drawn as a white European with blonde hair, whilst in others, he is portrayed as being a black African with tight curly hair. If this is not idolatry, then what is idolatry?!

Many Christian scholars affirmed that the true God to be worshipped is the God of all of the Prophets, the sole Lord of creation—Satan deceived the Christians and they fell into polytheism by worshipping Jesus and his mother in the form of statues, portraits, and the cross, or by simply deifying them in their hearts and minds. The Bible states, “**You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the Lord your God.**” (Leviticus 26:1)

**“They have disbelieved who say:
God is the third of three [in a trinity].”**

Qur’ān 5:73

How many places across the world do we see stone images of Mary with baby Jesus in her arms, or statues of Christ himself in churches and elsewhere—some stretching metres high and others small figurines. You see thousands of Christians gathering and prostrating to these images and statues of stone. This is the very idolatry that is forbidden

“In the beginning, Allāh created the Heavens and the Earth”

Arabic Bible, Genesis, verse 1

in scripture and by sound intellect, that nullifies their claim to monotheism.

Therefore to direct worship of any sort towards the Prophet Jesus (God’s peace be upon him) or his mother is a clear violation of this universally agreed upon commandment. God (Arabic: Allāh) stated in the Qur’ān: **“And from His signs are the night and the day, and the Sun and Moon—so do not prostrate to the Sun or the Moon but prostrate to God alone, the one who created them if it is He whom you truly worship.”** (Qur’ān 41:37) Furthermore, God states: **“They have disbelieved who say: God is the Messiah son of Mary.”** (Qur’ān 5:72) And He (the Almighty) said: **“They have disbelieved who say: God is the third of three [in a Trinity].”** (Qur’ān 5:73) God (the Most High) stated in the Qur’ān: **“The Messiah son of Mary is but a Messenger of God and Messengers before him have passed away, and his mother was a truthful woman—they both used to eat food.”** (Qur’ān 5:75) In this verse God makes clear that Jesus is a Messenger of God, Mary is a truthful woman and both were humans because they ate food, which was provided to them by their Lord—showing that they were reliant upon their Lord. For any Muslim to direct worship to a Prophet, a rock, a grave, an angel, or anyone besides God alone is considered to be polytheism.

Jesus (peace be upon him) was a sincere and humble servant of God: **“And behold! God will say on the Day of Judgment: ‘O Jesus son of Mary! Did you say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods instead of Allāh?’ He will say: ‘Glory to Thee! Never could I say what I had no right to say. Had I said such a thing, You would indeed have known it. You know what is in my inner-self, though I know not what is in Yours. For You know in full all that is hidden. Never did I say to them anything except what You commanded me to say: ‘Worship Allāh, my Lord and your Lord.’ And I was a witness over them while I lived among them. When You took me up, You were the Watcher over them, and You are a witness to all things”** (Qur’ān 5:116-117).

Even in the Bible, there are clear statements showing that Jesus (peace be upon him) would direct worship to Allāh. Read here a verse from the Christian Bible read by all Christian Arabs: **“And Jesus said to him: Why do you call me good? No one is good except Allāh alone!”** (Mark 10:18) Here Jesus distinguishes himself from God, i.e. that he is the worshipper and Allāh (God) is the one to be worshipped. In the Old Testament of the Arabic Bible, we find the following: **“In the beginning, Allāh created the Heavens and the Earth”** (Genesis, verse 1). Many Christians in the English-speaking world become astonished when they read these words because they imagine that Allāh is exclusively the God of Muslims, but the reality is that Allāh is the Lord and God who created Adam (peace be upon him) and made him the first Prophet, He is the same God who sent Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Moses, John, Jesus and Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon them all). Many people in the West perceive Allāh as a ‘foreign’ god of the Arabs. But now you can see that the name Allāh refers to the One God, Lord and Creator of all existence, who has the sole right to be worshipped.

How To Become A Muslim

A person becomes a Muslim by simply saying:

Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallaah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan

‘abduhu wa rasooluhu which means,

‘I testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh (Almighty God), and I testify that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.’ This can be said alone or in the company of others.

This testimony enters a person into Islam.

References and further reading: Sharḥ Usūl al-Imān, and Nūr ‘alā al-Darb (4/8) of Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymīn.

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