

# **THE FIRST WORD OF GRACE: NOBODY BUT YOU**

Exodus 20.3

*“And God spoke these words: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.  
**You shall have no other gods before me.**”* Exodus 20.1-3; Deuteronomy 5.7

Exodus 34.14; Deuteronomy 6.12-15; 13.4; Psalm 81.9

*“So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.”* 1 Corinthians 8.4-6

Matthew 6.24; 4.10

The order of the Ten Commandments is not haphazard. God intentionally put the first one first because it's the most important one. What does it mean to "have no other gods before me"? How do we recognize a "god"?

“Our gods are the things (or persons or ideas or powers) before which we bow down with our most sincere and profound respect. For what do we sacrifice time, money and effort? What is the center of our lives, giving us meaning, purpose and direction? What truly motivates, awes and inspires us? What preoccupies us and focuses our attention? What defines our values and our philosophy of life? Where do we look for salvation, healing and freedom? These questions help identify our gods.” David W. Gill

What, then, are some gods in the Twenty-First Century that we might place before the true God?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## **We Become Like Our “gods”**

## **Our “gods” Determine Our Ability to Have Impact**

### **HOW DO I PUT GOD FIRST?**

*“Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income,  
and he will fill your barns to overflow.”* Proverbs 3.9-10

*“Whatever you do, do it all for God's glory.”* 1 Corinthians 10.31

*“A righteous man is careful about his friendships.”* Proverbs 12.26

*“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”* Ephesians 5.16, 17

*“Call upon me in your day of trouble and I will deliver you and you will honor me.”* Psalm 50.15

*“Seek first the kingdom of God [put him first in every area of my life] and all these other things shall be added unto you.”* Matthew 6.33