

# THE 100



**Mirror Mirror**

## Recap

“I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but me.” **Exodus 20:2-3**

“The **law of concentration** states that whatever you dwell upon grows. The more you think about something, the more it becomes part of your reality.”  
**Brian Tracy**

# Recap

If my life were truly formed, informed and transformed by the First Commandment,  
**how would it be different** from how  
I've been living it for the past year?  
**Modern idolatry, Friar Robert McTeigue**





# Recap

A focus on God must be **immovable**

A focus on God must be **measurable**

A focus on God must be **manageable**

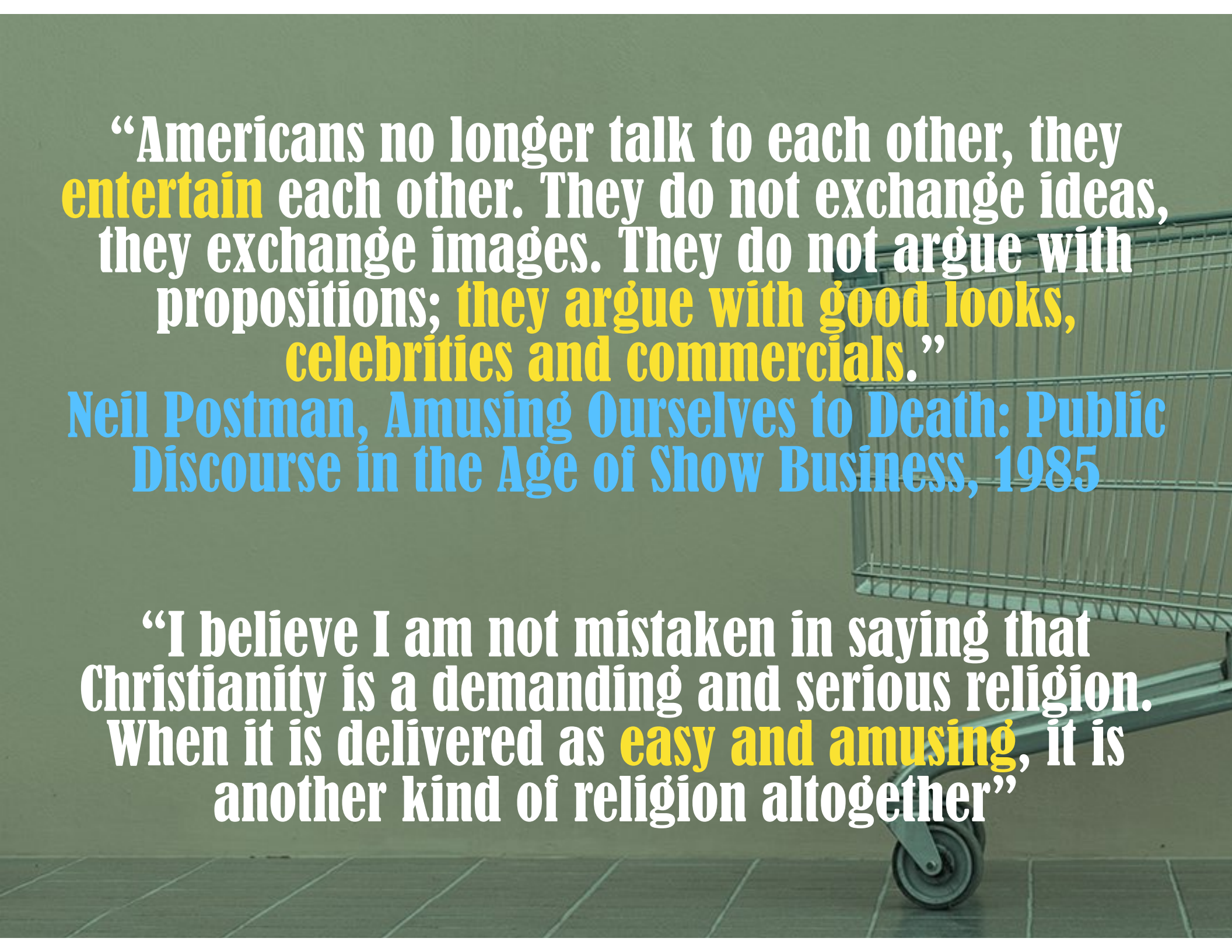
They traded (exchanged) the **truth**  
about God for a **lie**. **Romans 1:25**

# Modern idolatry, Friar Robert McTeigue

How do you know what your priorities are? One answer: Look at what has the **first claim** on your **time, energy and money**.

There is an **altar in the centre of the human heart**, and we can't bear for it to be empty.

There was a time when idolatry was the norm. With the advent of Christendom, the religion of the one God held sway over individuals, cultures and nations. That time is over. For the past few decades, we have moved into what many call, at least in the West, the “post-Christian era.”

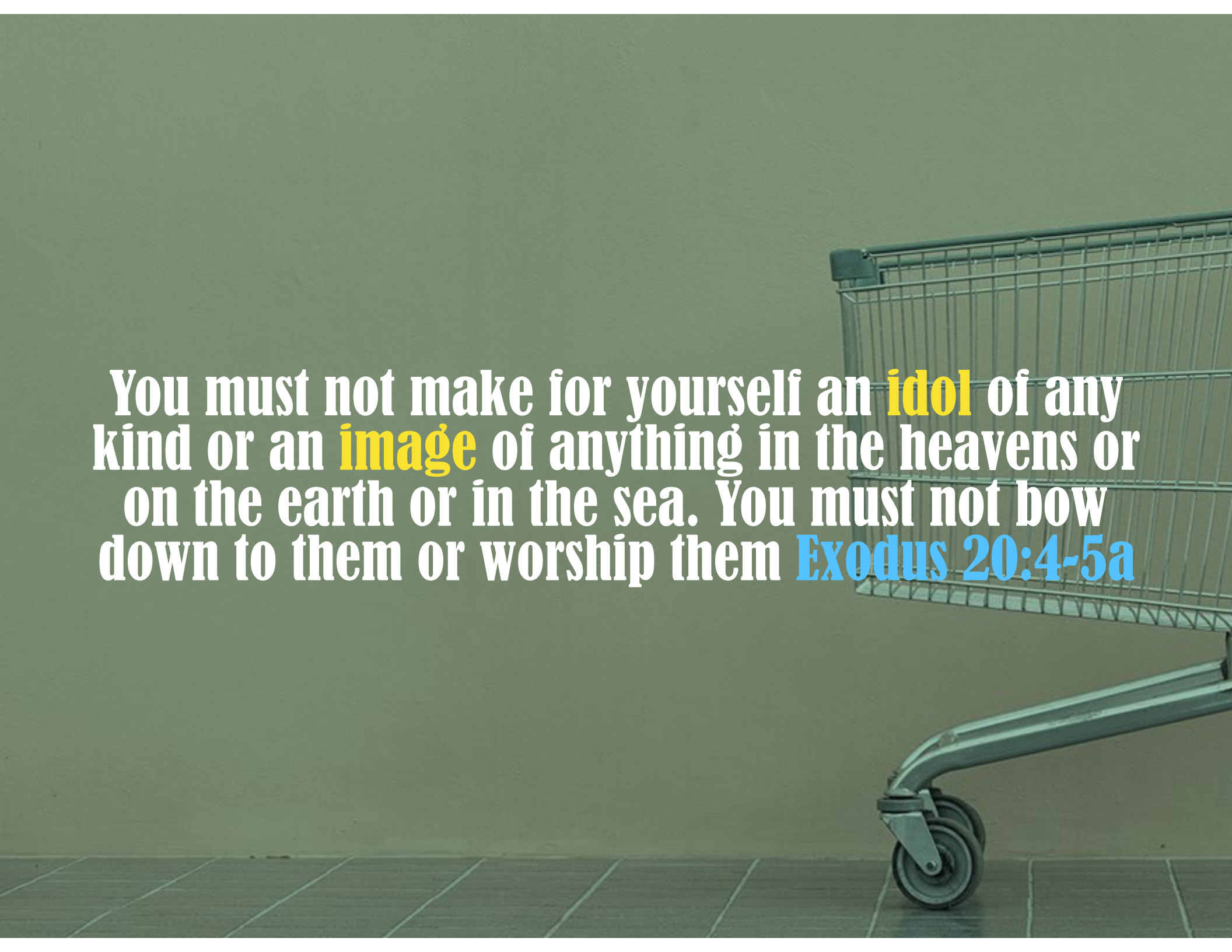


“Americans no longer talk to each other, they **entertain** each other. They do not exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; **they argue with good looks, celebrities and commercials.**”

Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, 1985

“I believe I am not mistaken in saying that Christianity is a demanding and serious religion. When it is delivered as **easy and amusing**, it is another kind of religion altogether”



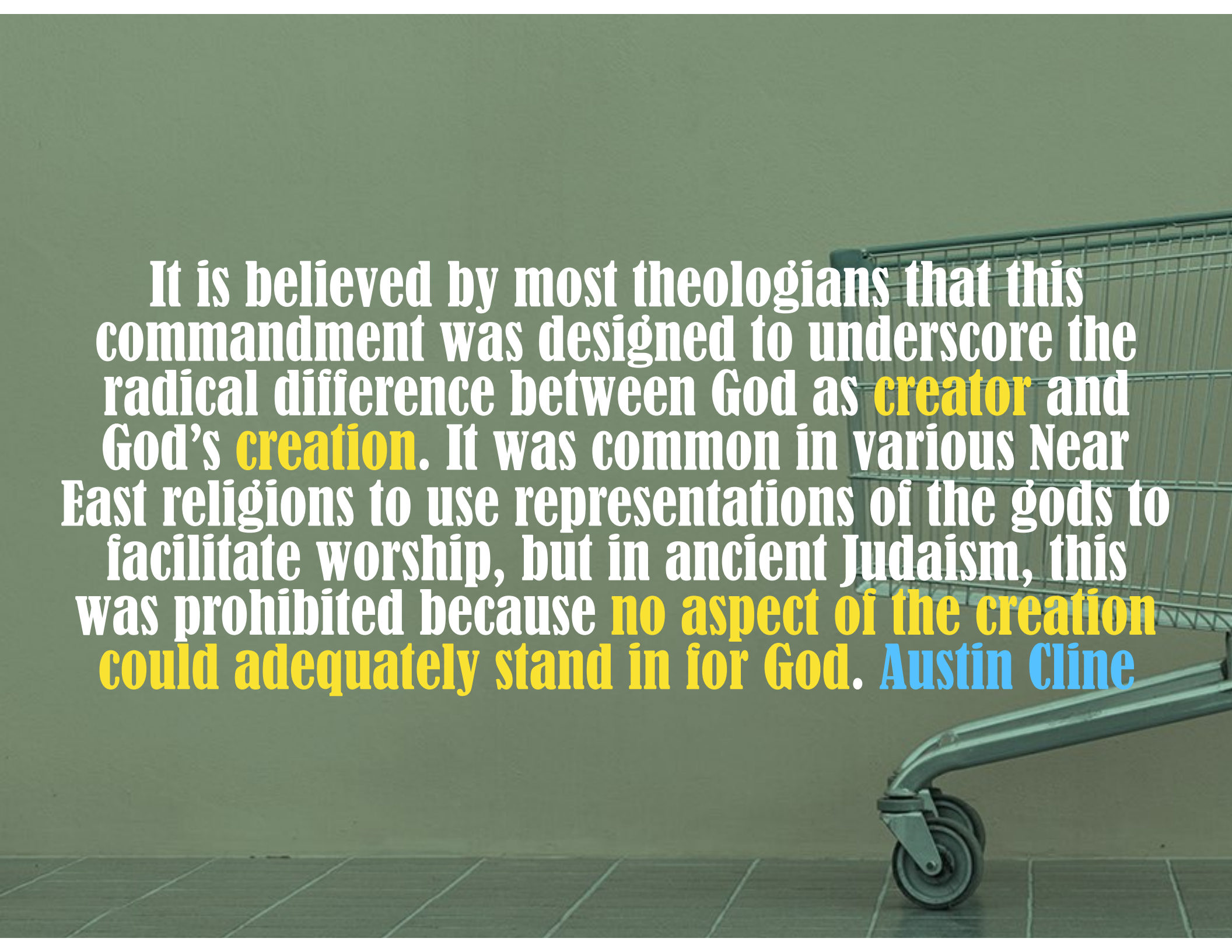
A shopping cart is positioned on the right side of the frame, partially visible. It is a metal wire cart with a handle and wheels, resting on a light-colored tiled floor. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**You must not make for yourself an **idol** of any kind or an **image** of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them **Exodus 20:4-5a****

**idol (direction) and image (reflection)**





A shopping cart is positioned on the right side of the image, partially visible. It has a metal frame and a single visible wheel. The floor is made of large, light-colored square tiles. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

It is believed by most theologians that this commandment was designed to underscore the radical difference between God as **creator** and God's **creation**. It was common in various Near East religions to use representations of the gods to facilitate worship, but in ancient Judaism, this was prohibited because **no aspect of the creation could adequately stand in for God.** **Austin Cline**

# Origins of Idolatry

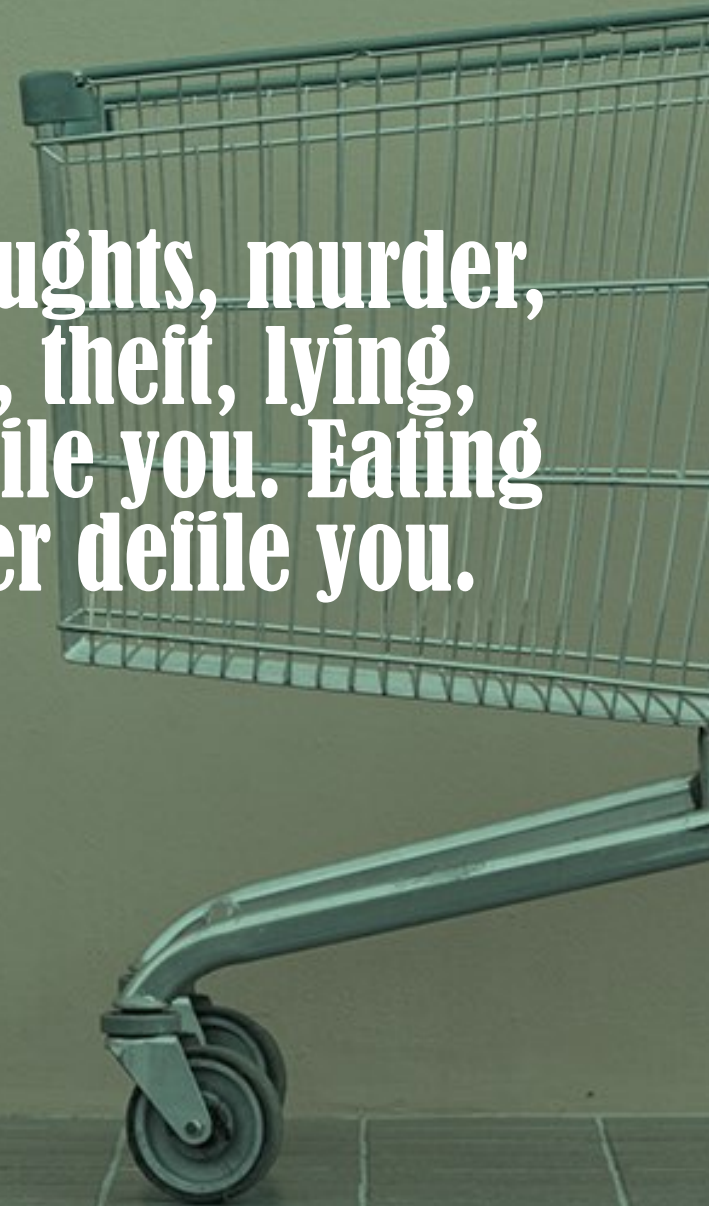
“Son of man, these leaders have set up idols in their **hearts**. They have embraced things that will make them fall into sin.” **Ezekiel 14:3**

You must not make a treaty of any kind with the people living in the land. They **lust** after their gods, offering sacrifices to them. They will invite you to join them in their sacrificial meals, and you will go with them. Then you will accept their daughters, who sacrifice to other gods, as wives for your sons. And they will **seduce** your sons to commit adultery against me by worshiping other gods. **Exodus 34:15-16**

# Origins of Idolatry

For **from the heart** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you.

**Matthew 15:19-20**





## Idols of the Heart by Tim Keller

Anything you look to **more than Christ** for a sense of acceptability, joy, significance, hope, and security is by definition your “god,” something you adore and serve with your whole life and heart.

That is an idol by definition. The sign of idolatry is always inordinate **anxiety**, inordinate **anger**, and inordinate **discouragement**.

Idols are good things (family, achievement, work, career, romance, talent, etc.) that we turn into **ultimate** things in order to get the significance and joy we need.

If we lose a good thing, it makes us sad.  
If we lose an idol, it **devastates us**.

# The Process of Idolatry

**Absence from God creates a spiritual vacuum that needs to be filled**

When the people saw **how long** it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. “Come on,” they said, “make us some gods who can lead us. We don’t know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt.” **Exodus 32:1**

There is an altar in the centre of the human heart, and we can't bear for it to be empty.  
**Friar Robert McTeigue**

# The Process of Idolatry

## Idolatry thrives in affluence

Idolatry is when good things  
become ultimate things

Idols are made of what we value

So Aaron said, “Take the **gold rings** from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters, and bring them to me.” All the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. Then **Aaron** took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. **vs 2-4**



# The Process of Idolatry

**Idolatry creates gods that we can manipulate**

**idolatry is being led**

When the people saw it, they exclaimed, “O Israel, **these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!**”

Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf.” **vs 5**

people have an unrelenting need to find significance in something beyond themselves—it is how they are created to be. Yet in their self-absorption, they often prefer **gods of their own making** to the one true God. In effect, they want to make God in their image, rather than being in God's. **Richard Lints, Identity and Idolatry**

# **The Process of Idolatry**

## **idols require their own religion**

Idolatry isn't simply a "thing",  
it is a process of becoming.

Then he announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord! The people got up **early the next morning** to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings.

After this, they celebrated with **feasting and drinking**, and they indulged in **pagan revelry**. **vs 6**

idolatry often does not present itself as an either-or. Most often an idol doesn't challenge God directly. Rather, it insinuates that it can thrive in one's life **alongside** devotion to God.

**John E. Kilner**

# Importance of Image

When the Bible talks about something being an “image,” that means it has a **connection** with something else in a way that may also involve a **reflection** of it. **John E. Kilner**





# Images of God humanity

Then God said, “Let us make human beings  
in our **image**, to be like us. **Genesis 1:26a**

Then the Lord God formed the man from  
the dust of the ground. He breathed the  
**breath of life** into the man’s nostrils, and  
the man became a **living person**. **2:7**

# Images of God

## Jesus

Christ is the **visible image** of the invisible God.  
**Colossians 1:15**

No one has ever seen God. But the **unique One**,  
who is himself God, is near to the Father's  
heart. He has revealed God to us. **John 1:18**

So all of us who have had that veil removed can  
see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the  
Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and  
more like him as **we are changed into his  
glorious image.** **2 Corinthians 3:18**



**Humanity either distorts**



**Or magnifies themselves**



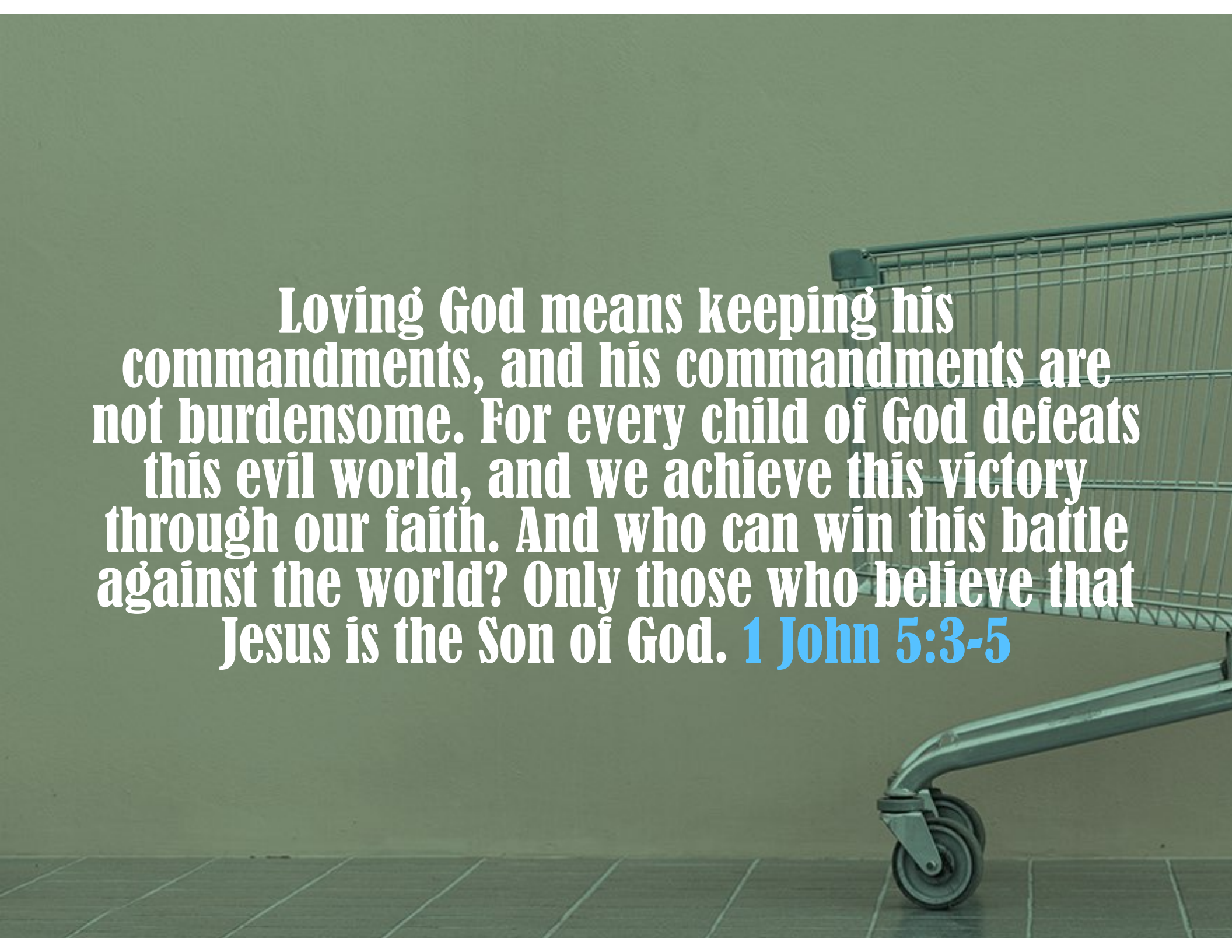
## 4 Questions to Help Identify Idols in Your Life, Lisa Yvonne

Are you willing to **compromise** your beliefs for it?

Will you get **angry** if you can't do it/don't get it?

Do you **value** it over people?

Does it push you closer to God  
or **pull** you farther away?

A shopping cart is positioned on the right side of the image, its metal frame and wheels visible. The cart is empty and stands on a light-colored tiled floor. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The reference '1 John 5:3-5' is highlighted in blue.

**Loving God means keeping his  
commandments, and his commandments are  
not burdensome. For every child of God defeats  
this evil world, and we achieve this victory  
through our faith. And who can win this battle  
against the world? Only those who believe that  
Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:3-5**