

# Leviticus 19:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.

## Analysis

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**Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.**

This verse falls within the section on **Various Laws of Holiness**. Wide-ranging ethical and ceremonial laws, including the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (19:18).

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

## Historical Context

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Wide-ranging ethical and ceremonial laws, including the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (19:18). Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Ancient

sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

## Related Passages

## **John 15:13 – Greatest form of love**

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

1. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
2. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

## Interlinear Text

אַל	מִסְכֵּה	לְאַלְהִיכֶם:	אַל	תִּפְנֹה	אַל	תְּפִלָּה	אַל	תְּפִלָּה
H408	Turn	H413	ye not unto idols		gods		to yourselves molten	H3808
H6437		H457		H430		H4541		

## Additional Cross-References

**Leviticus 26:1** (References God): Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

**Exodus 20:23** (References God): Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.

**Exodus 34:17** (References God): Thou shalt make thee no molten gods.

**1 John 5:21** (Parallel theme): Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

**Deuteronomy 27:15** (References Lord): Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

**Psalms 96:5** (References God): For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

**1 Corinthians 10:14** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

**Exodus 32:4** (References God): And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

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