

Catholics don't worship images or statues! Do you have any pictures of your children, wife or family? If you do, then according to many protestant denominations and beliefs, you are guilty of worshipping images. Of course, this is an absurd notion! Many Protestants have nativity scenes! The heresy of Iconoclasm was actually started by Islam. Also, by saying that the making of any images is breaking the Ten Commandments, you commit blasphemy because God instructed the Jews to make certain images and if what you falsely say were true, God would be guilty of breaking His own commandments; therefore, He would also be guilty of sin. From the very earliest years of the Church, Christians used such symbols as the cross, the fish, the peacock, the shepherd, and the dove. And early Christian tombs and catacombs bear paintings which are representations of biblical scenes. God prohibited the making of images for the purpose of worshipping them, but God does not prohibit image-making altogether.

- 1) Exodus 25:18-19 "And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends."
 - a) Here are images directly connected with the presence of God, and *commanded* by Him.
- 2) Exodus 26:1 " "Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim worked into them by a skilled craftsman."
- 3) Numbers 21:8-9, "The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live. So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole." The Jews also used many carved images in the Temple, including cherubim, oxen, lions, palm trees, and flowers. 1 Kings 6 and 7.
- 4) The Jews also used many carved images in the Temple, including cherubim, oxen, lions, palm trees, and flowers. God would have never commanded this or permitted this if it were against His will or sinful or for the Temple that would house His holy presence!
 - a) 1 Kings 6:18 "The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers."
 - b) 1 Kings 6:23-29 "In the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high. One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits--ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip. The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape. The height of each cherub was ten cubits. He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. He overlaid the cherubim with gold. On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers."
 - c) 1 Kings 6:32 " And on the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with beaten gold."
 - d) 1 Kings 6:35 " He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings."

- e) 1 Kings 7:29 " On the panels between the uprights were lions, bulls and cherubim--and on the uprights as well. Above and below the lions and bulls were wreaths of hammered work."
 - f) 1 Kings 7:36 " He engraved cherubim, lions and palm trees on the surfaces of the supports and on the panels, in every available space, with wreaths all around."
- 5) God Himself made images because mankind is made in the image of God. If simply making images were a sin, then God would be guilty of sin.
- a) Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our **image**, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his own **image**, in the **image** of God he created him; male and female he created them.
 - b) Genesis 9:6 " "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the **image** of God has God made man."
 - c) 1 Corinthians 11:7 " A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the **image** and glory of God".
- 6) Once again, the making of images is not a sin, but only worshipping the images is a sin. Catholics don't worship images. The following verses prove that the sin is only in worshipping the images. This is a big difference.
- a) Daniel 3:7 " nations and men of every language fell down and **worshiped** the **image** of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up."
 - b) Revelations 14:9-11 " And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who **worship** the beast and his **image**, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name. he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who **worship** the beast and his **image**, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."
 - c) Revelations 16:2 " The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and **worshiped** his **image**."
 - d) Revelations 19:20 " With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and **worshiped** his **image**."
 - e) Revelations 20:4 " They had not **worshiped** the beast or his **image** and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years."