Enlightening America’s Post-Christian 5-D Worldview: Falling Off the Ethical Cliff

Results of the Second Commandment’s Ethical Leadership Choice: Who and What-not to Serve Measured by Sinlog

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Abstract

What if it was missed, lost in the corruption of darkness and confusion of misunderstanding?

What if in the interest of focusing on the common, mostly undisputed theme of God’s preeminence, the Second Commandment was lumped into corporate understanding and expansion of the First, without differentiating the verbs of each? After all, many still ask, “What is the difference between the First and Second Commandments?”

Usually the answers focus on the different objects of worship whether God, or man-made idols. Some say “what” and “who” is addressed in the First; but the Second is about the “way” and “how” of worship—which is exactly the problem. Because the Second Commandment also specifically talks about who and what not to worship: idols, physical objects, carved, graven images--substitutionary worship; then there must be more. By not digging deeper beyond the metaphorical and commonalities, what if the practical and simply stated meaning was missed?

This submission, therefore, takes a different, new approach and addresses the passive verb found in the First Commandment “have (or allow) no other gods before Me” focusing on that key word: “have” as a transitive verb meaning that in no way, absolutely no other gods allowed in relationship before Jehovah. And the Second Commandment if rightfully also focused, this time, on the active verb “make (or elevate, place, install) no graven images,” none to ever be pursued, or mentally imagined as an idol; there could then be a more effective, comprehensive check on ethical leadership behavior and performance.
This paper enlightens (Jn.14:6) our fall off the ethical cliff, illuminating the results of past choices by holding up the Second Commandment of the famous, too-often rejected Ten. Apparently, intellectual insight and spiritual discernment are required to step back and see where the spiritual footprints have led. Leaders have lost their way, abused power that they were entrusted with. And so far, many do not recognize they have fallen individually, or collectively as a nation, or from when and where the ethical cliff originated. Some are surprised that we can still fall even further. Indeed, all that seems missing at times is completing the inevitable fall, and smashing into the ground.

However, leaders may regain the edge with the Light of Christ (Jn.14:6) to Truth-fully guide the Way, as the Second Commandment might even be that most common edge of this ethical cliff, where lost leaders seemingly become hopelessly blind.

Although, perhaps oblivious to the ethical cliff and arbitrary future moral standards of a post-Christian America, almost 68% agreed that America is not Christian while only 32% believe it still is, according to the June 2012 Evangelical Leaders Survey A 2010 U.S. Religious Census also confirmed, less than 50% of the nation’s population identify themselves as Christians. “2010 U.S. Religious Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study (RCMS)” was recently released by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB) . What profit is there to pretend the ethical cliff is not there? Denial and blindness do not cushion the fall.

Yet, somehow fearful or oblivious to the ethical cliff, another survey contradicts those findings showing about 75-80 percent of Americans say they're Christian (Tooley, 2012). Rather than compare to an old standard of the Second Commandment, will new arbitrary standards elevated by fallen men who are yet determined to lead and pursue power, bring followers,
business colleagues, careerists right off the cliff too? The next 4 years might be a good measure if we have the courage to demand ethical leadership, and measure with spiritual eyes that see.

Because, quite startling, America’s re-elected leader Obama who claims Christianity, along with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, perhaps with forked tongue and crooked heart, both describe Islam as a great religion, sidestepping, if not ignoring the Second Commandment. Shamefully, all too often America’s elite, political class assumes the mantle of leadership, corrupting the thoughts and hopes of guiding ethical leadership or principles. Their leadership impact will not be neutral by Second Commandment standards, leaving us in a quandary to determine what is right and important.

We are conflicted, confused, confounded, and crippled as our performance surely shows. Ethics provides concepts of right and wrong conduct, coming from the Greek word “ethos” which means character. However, character will not be taught in public schools because more dollars are being spent on math and science as supposedly the answer to failure there. Schools pretending that character and values will be taught in the homes, when leadership research shows values are caught, not taught. Failing leaders in homes, schools, and government lead by poor example. Nor, will character and ethical behavior be demanded of our leaders.

The Second Commandment is clear about the right and wrong choices, original standards of behavior and the consequences of idols like sex, power, and money. By ignoring the words and intent of the Second Commandment, “shall not make” idols, leaders to their own peril avoid the possibility, the responsibility, and the accountability that they can put their idols of money, sex, power, what-not before God.

With much talk and worry about America’s approaching fiscal cliff in the fall of 2012, (pun intended) not much instruction has been offered for seeing or understanding the ethical
cliff, perhaps due to the erosion of our deepest values and the subtle darkness that has obscured our way.

Since the term “Christian” at Antioch (Acts 11:25-26; 26:28, 1 Pet.4:16) was not meant to identify an ethnic or geographic group, but a group who behaved like Christ, as Christians; is it any surprise to Christians who understand that behavior and choices has consequences that spiritual poverty, emotional and mental depravity do not also lead eventually to physical and fiscal calamity as well? No surprise.

Causal theory can be seen to affect relationships throughout history. They became Christians because of Acts! Because of their actions, their actions proved who they were, a peculiar people. So, action and behavior-values lived out, offers a better way to measure leadership performance. The Second Commandment is heaven’s plumb line, providing the vertical standard and origin of human leadership when it comes to the idols of sex, power, and money.

Meant originally as gifts or benefits from a right relationship with a loving Father, we have elevated sex, power, and money to idols, replacing the Creator with creation, lusting for the gifts, not the Giver, and leading sometimes to temporary seeming success, but ultimately death, destruction, after the fall.

This paper examines the meaning, actions, and spiritual violations of the Second Commandment more closely, plus some critical definitions and relevance that will help redefine our path, describes their impact on a newly explored 5-D worldview, then shows the results of performance promised for two choices, and finally provides a newly uncovered tool to measure individual and organizational performance based on deadly sins, temptations, and behavior to abuse power that are destroying lives, organizations, and the nation.
The significance for future leadership by getting this right, realigning actions with beliefs and mental models can greatly affect leadership, especially now with a power tool like “Sinlog” which measures the abuse of leadership power, and particularly when the corruptive results are so clearly promised Biblically and clearly happening today. The results are predictable, and measureable by Sinlog—values in action-behavior; a power tool better than Tim, “the tool-man” Taylor could have invented.

This paper reviews the Second Commandment in that failing context; that a Christian worldview should be expanded beyond the 3-D world of objects and images as previously understood, to the newly offered 5-D world of measurable results to see that failure to measure up in pursuit of who, what and how not to worship has resulted in negative and previously unforeseen but potentially repeated consequential ethical failures. Light’s ON!

A light in the darkness that can shine on obstacles, illuminate the path and the ethical cliff, reflect images contrasted from the darkness as they truly are. Only Christ provides that Light.

Whether a post-Christian America has fallen or not, may be debatable. Or, America may not be quite to the tipping point yet; but definitely the results, (read failures), of ethical leadership and widespread corruption pervade the day. American schools are a disaster and in decline, due in part to idolatrous forces of sex, power, and money. The context of that discussion begins with the enemies battle cry: “to kill, steal, and destroy” (John 10:10) and highlights the life-threatening consequences of losing this spiritual battle. Robbed of life, and abundant life that organizations, individuals and the nation could enjoy, Americans may be falling into a destructive, tortuous cycle of ultimate spiritual death.
Traced back decades ago to taking out prayer in the public schools, removal of Christ in national holidays and displays of divinity, Christians in America have proven spineless, no wonder unable to stand. Christians seem to be falling over themselves, their agendas, and even God-inspired dreams. The new redefinition of marriage and America’s growing love affair with homosexuality, blatantly moved the focus off God, the Creator, and on to the creation.

Perhaps the beginning of that modern decline of young people occurred when the U.S. President decades ago, made a mockery of the most powerful position in the world, diminishing it for the high price of sexual gratification, and then lying to cover up the sin. Like Eden, the deceitful leaves in the garden would not cover for what before that had been a nation seeking ethical leadership examples in their elected officials.

Followed by WorldCom, Enron, Tyco, HealthSouth, CIA fiascoes… and insert the Latest Headline for the next example, the latest election cycle demonstrated further lack of civility. The decline of morality and lack of ethical leadership cripples the nation into irrelevancy. Champions of freedom, and then afraid to be tied up in knots of restriction, America is now tied to the what-not of failure, by Second Commandment standards. That standard is the what not to serve, not pursuing the gods of power sex and money. Real freedom lies in the “not” of what-not to serve, the idol boundary there for our protection.

Gallup Polls a decade ago showed by a ratio of 2 to 1, Americans recognized they were in spiritual and moral decline, and also were confirmed by Newsweek at 80%. Parents Magazine reported that 90% said we have lost track of our basic values. Another study, the life in America survey confirmed 80% think America is on the wrong track. (Shearson Lehman Brothers “life in America” survey)
From a Society of Human Resource Managers study, from 1997, 60% of employees stated no one cares about business ethics. (SHRM Ethics Resource Center) While 35-45% witnessed the falsification of records and 30% stole from the company, while 25% misused organization resources. In 1985, a New York Times/CBS News poll said 55% believe vast majority of corporate executives are dishonest while 68% believe unethical behavior of executives is the primary cause of decline in business standards, productivity and success. American employees then go on to feel justified to respond in kind to cheat, steal and lie according to the study.

Among those with Christian values, that trend is also seen where 45% of America's Christian parents teach their children that there are NO moral absolutes. While perhaps over the ethical cliff, beyond the tipping point, only a minority—only 43% teach their children that there are SOME moral absolutes. (Baldwin, 2005) Are some moral absolutes better than nothing?

Results from 35,000 high school students surveyed in 2006 said that in order to succeed 42% lied, cheated, or stole; 81% lied to a parent, 62% to a teacher, and 61% cheated on a exam. Youth violence costs over $158 Billion per year.

In 2003, 62% of seniors had intercourse, 33% of ninth graders. Obsessed with sex and population control, 53 Million American babies were murdered since Roe vs. Wade in 1973. Yet half the population sees no connection between devalued life, and the destructive life our nation collectively pursues in the interest of self-worship and self-gratification and pleasure.

President of the Institute for Global Ethics, Dr. Rush Kidder, “We will not survive the 21st century with the ethics of the 20th century. (Marrella, 2001, pg.xvii,)
Falling off the cliff, or only approaching a tipping point, maybe there is time to get the spiritual, ethical, and national act together. One thing is for sure, this will not be like Wylie Coyote in the roadrunner cartoon. We will fall into chaotic abyss where death, destruction rob us of the life, and abundant life Jesus intended and died for us all to have.

Since He is the only God worthy of our devotion, service, and worship, the Second Commandment sheds light on the leadership dilemma and God’s intent.

Second Commandment

Context is provided by the First Commandment where the passive, transitive verb “have” no other gods before God contrasts with the active command and verb not to “make” graven images as idols before God in the Second Commandment. Lumping the general description and idea that there should not be allowed any other gods before God as in the First Commandment, avoids the specific command and responsibility not to actively choose, pursue, make, or replace God, as specifically stated in the Second Commandment.

Some like Puritan preacher and writer Thomas Watson, say “The first commandment prohibits worshipping a false god or any image of a false god. The second commandment prohibits making or worshipping an image of the true God.” But, since an image of the true God is a false god by definition, and a false god or an image of a false God is also an idol, neither are the true God. So, the distinction is hardly relevant as much as the difference in verbs

The intent of both His commands is clear. There should be no other gods, idols, images, replacements of His affection in both the First and Second. And to miss the difference in verbs used erases accountability, quite conveniently for leaders who pursue manmade idols. Whereas passively not allowing other gods unfortunately does not fully confront false leaders with the inconvenient fact that spiritual, mental idols of money, power and sex are an affront before God
when pursued with all their affection. However, the active verb of not making or replacing God with idols is clear.

A review of the text along with significant highlights and descriptive intent follows:

Ex. 20: 4-5: “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, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children of the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing loving-kindness to thousands to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Highlighted from these Scripture verses are 7 phrases or critical parts to discuss significant components of the Second Commandment.

“You shall not make” says that God prohibits that we would make, fashion, carve, design, imagine, build, pursue any idol. Clearly this describes actions to replace God with idols. This is not a passive verb but indicates actions that leaders take that will corrupt their life as a witness. The normative command is a definite negative warning and directive.

“For yourself” reminds the motive involved in this rebellious, unscriptural action placing self above God and others. The human failing and sinful motive is elevating self above God and all others. To extremes this is called “toxic-meism” where self rules all (Pascarella, 1999), or “toxic sheenism,” if a modern television picture of the destructive self is needed.

“An idol” means something that would be in replacement or symbolic of worshipping God, coming in between a relationship with him; or any likeness (image) of what is in heaven above, or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth” This is a catchall, i.e. what-not! Any graven image, as in money or gold engraved and imaged in pursuit of the almighty dollar. As in what-not to serve, avoid serving, idols, images from above below or here on earth, and all
what-not. This is what-not to worship. Only in selfless worship and service then, by describing all what-not, His command becomes definitely and absolutely inclusive of any and every thing that could substitute-physical idols of any kind, imagined images, combined with God’s intent makes it very clear.

**You shall not worship them or serve them** Ethics for successful leaders is all about serving, seen in servant leader companies like Service Master, Toro, and Chick FilA. Servant leaders in humility before God and before all else, put others also before self. Absolutely NO idols whatsoever, even the image, that will be worshipped (put before God) or served. Jesus taught we cannot serve two masters. We cannot serve God and mammon. We cannot serve God and money. And we cannot serve God and man, including self. Joshua reminds to “…choose for yourselves today whom you will serve…” (Joshua24:15)

“For” (because) sets up the reason why God demands our sole worship. The Sovereign God does not have to explain but He does. He lovingly prepares to explain our choice, and the consequences, and shows why, the reason He cares in the next phrase.

**The Lord your God am a jealous God.** (Dt.6:15, Josh.24:19, Is.48:11, Nahum1:2) The intent, He wants our affections, alone, and will not tolerate misplaced affections. Jealousy is a human emotion that all can identify with and understand. So, therefore leaders are further without excuse. This is summed up in the what Jesus called the greatest Commandment- to love God. (Deuteronomy 6:5,Matthew 22:36-38)

**“Visiting the iniquity…but showing lovingkindness”** Because the results are promised, explained, and repeated as in Deuteronomy, blessing or curse: dependent on choice and behavior, God visits the iniquity laying the sins on the parents (important for leaders/parents concerned
with leaving a truly living legacy) for those who hate, reject, with enmity toward God; but showing lavish, unfailing love on those who love me and obey, or serve me.

The implications are enormous: the behaviors based on values are off-kilter, easily ignored, never measured, and our past performance has been so intertwined, and confused with such low expectations since we left it up to the passive circumstances, verbs, and situations to resolve themselves, along with unethical leaders.

Perhaps the theologians, linguistics and academics have one consistent interpretation that has been generally always accepted until now; but what if they missed it? Where common proactivity, analysis, and common sense prove we consistently violate the Second Commandment with such a limited myopic interpretation, forgetting that God was talking to us about the verb, our behavior making idols, and the consequences of failing. This calls for rethinking.

Rethink because here’s how the 8-headed, monster-leader responds to the First and Second Commandments. “Since I do not worship other gods or religions before God, and I sure don’t carve any miniature totem poles or idols, I’m off the hook right?” Meanwhile the 8-headed porno-viewing, money-stealing, power-grabbing, backstabbing, stepping-on-people for promotion, womanizing, adulterating, monster-leader moves on to his next victim.

So similar were the interpretations that scholars, commentaries and contrarians have attempted to combine and expand together the First and Second Commandments because of their similarities. However, considering the small difference in perspective between “have” a passive transitive verb as in not allowing or having any Gods before God as in the First Commandment, compared to an active verb “make” in “make for yourself” shows acts of commission that violate God’s intent and words in the Second Commandment.
What if it was missed, lost in the corruption of darkness and confusion of misunderstanding? What if in the interest of focusing on the common, mostly undisputed theme of God’s preeminence, the Second Commandment was lumped into corporate understanding and expansion of the First, without differentiating the verbs of each? After all, many still ask “What is the difference between the First and Second Commandments?”

Usually the answers focus on the different objects of worship whether God, or man-made idols. Some say “what” and “who” is addressed in the First; but the Second is about the “way” and “how” of worship—which is exactly the problem. Because the Second Commandment also specifically talks about who and what not to worship: idols, physical objects, carved, graven images—substitutionary worship; then there must be more. By not digging deeper beyond the metaphorical and commonality, what if the practical and simply stated meaning was missed?

Whereas if we only rightly believed and discerned, behaving as responsible and accountable leaders, not ignoring the consequences of a 5-D world, leadership today would be in a better state. Better perspective, accountability and understanding might have shown why the performance of our “leaders” has been so dismal. The impact and implications on contemporary organizational leadership are enormous and explain the ethical cliff we have fallen off. But there is hope.

Seems we need a more effective, comprehensive check on ethical leadership behavior and performance. With that in mind important definitions like idol, image, the Law, the Old and New Covenant, Sinlog, and their relevance should be reviewed.
Definitions and relevance

Idol: an image of a god used as an object or instrument of worship, an object of excessive devotion or admiration; a false notion or idea that causes errors in thinking or reasoning; anything that has no substance but can be seen; as an image in a mirror; any image or effigy; an impostor which reminds of the great impostor, counterfeit, and father of lies in the spiritual and cultural war for idols that entice leaders. (Deuteronomy 27:15; Psalms 97:7) When the Hebrew word “pesel” refers to the household gods of idolaters where every nation and city had its own gods, and every family had its separate household or tutelary god, the new show American Idol with the new stars of sex power and money seems like a potential blockbuster.

When God shapes leaders power, sex, and money become gifts. Or, these gifts become gods, and abusive, when pursued and elevated above God.

The Law: the Old Testament and the Ten Commandments seems too restrictive for Americans who even desire freedom above God. What appeals is the lack of accountability and responsibility. Easy to figure, then, the Second Commandment and the Old Covenant are old-fashioned, no longer too applicable to leadership today in their minds.

What is missing? The New Covenant where God does the engraving, the writing, the inscribing on our hearts. The intent of His Old Covenant, not only to point again to Him as the only God worthy of our worship, and our Standard, but also to our inability to keep His Law, the inevitable and obvious failure we are, and would become without His New Covenant. See the intent of keeping us from following graven images, so He can engrave His New Covenant on our hearts.

This makes all the difference and provides more clarity of the Second Commandment when God does the engraving on our hearts as in Jeremiah 31:31-34, “I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah…My covenant which they
broke…But this is the covenant I will make,…declares the Lord, I will put My law within them,
and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God…for I will forgive their iniquity, and
their sin I will remember no more.” This new covenant description is repeated in Hebrews 8:10
and Hebrews 10:16.

Sinlog: a modified term for SYMLOG, a tool to measure power-abuse behavior based on
values, which determine behavior. Illustrated on a 3-axis graph, Sinlog depicts and plots the
ideal, and most effective profile showing either proper use, or abuse of power, with respect to
three areas: responsible love for people, assigned tasks and respect or obedience to authority, and
motives of personal power for glory and worship.

Armed with these critical definitions and their relevance to the Second Commandment,
the significance of a 5-dimensional worldview adds even better understanding to previous
leadership limitations.

Impact of 5-D worldview

The problem with only a 3-D view of idols and the world is it only goes to the depth of
the visible, and physical. Like special glasses needed to see 3-D movies properly, our Godly
vision needs to see the expansion of a 5-D world. For example, that 3-D interpretation of carved
images for the Second Commandment does not go deep enough and avoids the spiritual, mental,
emotional and psychological dimensions of idol worship. Sex, the love of money, and power do
not always fit into the 3-D carved image of idols, a model, which is all too known and
convenient for leaders who desire to abuse power.
Worse yet, only 9% of America's born-again Christians have a Biblical worldview. Only 9%! According to Barna. (Baldwin, 2005) That limited vision accounts for severe leadership limitations already.

Suggested below is a 5-D worldview for leaders that includes *self, situation, socio, system and Sovereign* dimensions or realms that cannot be ignored without full understanding of leadership impact.

The *Self* reminds leaders of the importance in leading self before leading others. Many call this self-leadership. Leaders must then consider the self holistically: the physical, emotional, volitional, mental, and spiritual aspects of self. Sinful sex as an idol can be real physical adultery or lust of the mind, emotions, and images as in pornographic sex. Money can include physical cash, or symbolic aspects of prosperity, bank accounts, or wealth in general. Power is mostly symbolic, but can be just as real an idol for leaders. Most leadership failures begin here with self. Some would counter by saying that is self-management rather than self-leadership. But when illustrated by showing that self-management would involve managing sin, taking care of it, nurturing it, compartmentalizing the idol pursuit of sex, power, and money; leaders realize those can never be limited or managed without harmful effects spilling over. The Second Commandment reminds the individual self not to let any, absolutely no idols or images become gods that are pursued.

The *Situation* always brings external circumstances to the equation that leaders must properly analyze, prepare for and execute under. The situation-realm relating to the Second Commandment discerns the affects that objects, images, position of power, enticements, that can all become gods of worship and pursuit.
The *Socio*-realm is that in relationships to others. Since leadership is a relationship between leaders and followers, the socio aspects of leadership behaviors and actions affect others as well as the self, and the situation. People can be abused through sex, power, and money idol vices.

Life changing transformational leadership can impact *Systems* the fourth of our five-dimensional worldview, when leaders have their act together. The system, or organization can be immediately and originally impacted, then expanded to multiple micro or macro-system levels. From the organization micro levels might involve departments, teams, committees and so on. From the macro level, organizations might expand to systems like community, city, state, nation and global systems. Leaders have an impact in multiple systems especially when there worldview is intentionally expanded to cover the *Sovereign* realm.

Finally, the *Sovereign* realm is what is so often ignored. In order to keep the artificial separation of the sacred from the secular, leaders forget there is no real separation. This is the heavenly, spiritual realm where the keys to the kingdom were promised to Peter because quite significantly he recognized who God was, quite consistent with the Second Commandment."

“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” He proclaimed.

Without the distraction of idols, inspired by the Holy Spirit, Peter’s confession as the Rock, and his revelation would become suitable foundation for building the church that the gates of Hell shall not overpower. With that potential impact, leaders should always keep mindful of the Sovereign realm and the impact. That impact is even more meaningful in that Christ praised Peter saying He would give Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven: whatever he bound on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever he shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in
heaven. (Mt. 16:16-20) As we pray Thy kingdom come, those keys to building the kingdom are important to avoid the destruction of leadership failure.

Successful leaders need a 5-D, 5-dimensional worldview that provides vision and perspective, with eyes to see, not special glasses like 3-D movies, but God’s eyes. Vision that sees: areas of influence and impact. How deep is your worldview? Hopefully global and five-dimensional, 5-D.

Richard Tarnas in “The Passion of the Western Mind” describes “…virtually limitless array of worldviews. The human challenge is to engage that worldview or set of perspectives which brings forth the most valuable, life-enhancing consequences.” Tarnas is describing a worldview that focuses on human flourishing to bloom, thrive, prosper, as fully developed, performing and blessed human, which sounds similar to the abundant life in Jn.10:10 that Jesus described. (Hitt, 1996, p.xii)

The results of our leadership pursuits and performance were promised from the Second Commandment.

Results-performance promised

Real value that rests in understanding the results of and meaning of the Second Commandment are clear and strong. Valuable performance is promised from getting it right. And a clear choice is offered. God promises to “visit the iniquity (lay the sins) of the fathers on the children on the third and fourth generations of those who hate (reject) Me” from those who make graven images or idols to worship and serve.

Of critical importance, note the similarity to the Second Commandment from this following verse from Deuteronomy. Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the
similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, …The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, …(Deuteronomy 4:16)

The words and intent describing idols and images is unmistakable, while the warning seems to have been ignored in our myopic interpretation. Note “Lest ye corrupt yourselves” sounds like the corruption America is experiencing in the fall off the ethical cliff.

However, positive performance results are also promised when getting this right: “but showing loving-kindness to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” Since thousands follow leaders in corporations, nations, and families, like is mentioned in the verse self-leadership and leadership by example is critical.

“Leadership by example is not only the most pervasive but also the most enduring form of Leadership.” (Keshavan Nair, A Higher Standard of Leadership: Lessons from Ghandi)

We have seen how clearly understanding the Second Commandment content and intent, with the promises of blessing or curse can affect our leadership performance especially important with a 5-dimensional worldview. Measuring and predicting performance for individual leaders can be enormous help in spiritual growth and leadership development, attempting to avoid the human tendency to abuse power. Sinlog is the powerful measuring tool up to this task.

Sinlog

Using a values-based approach, Sinlog is the modified name for SYMLOG ( SYstematic Multiple Level Observation of Groups) that offers 26 evaluating factors or parameters measured and plotted on a triple-axis, field diagram. Based on research from 1Million profiles: using field theory from author and inventor Dr. Robert Bales SYMLOG measures power and values behavior.
Dr. Bales was professor emeritus of social relations at Harvard University. In 1983, he founded the SYMLOG Consulting Group with colleagues in San Diego. He was the author of Interaction Process Analysis; Personality and Interpersonal Behavior; and co-author, with Talcott Parsons and Edward Shils, of Working Papers in the Theory of Action. He has well over 100 professional papers in the major journals of sociology and psychology.

Sinlog (aka SYMLOG) is adapted here to offer a method of measurement of power abuse so common in leadership failures. The SYMLOG system brings together the key evaluative elements of several behavioral theories into one concise instrument, for a comprehensive method of group analysis. Illustrated on a 3-D graph, SYMLOG depicts and plots the ideal, and most effective profile showing either proper use or abuse of power, with respect to responsible love for people, assigned tasks and respect or obedience to authority, and the over-pursuit of glory and power.

The SYMLOG rating, successfully used worldwide for decades produces highly sophisticated yet practical analyses of group dynamics and individual behavior, focusing on the theory and practical methods of Dr. Robert F. Bales. Symlog is a powerful tool for systematic data collection, analysis, and feedback. An Individual Effectiveness Profile quickly, and effectively shows people their behavior has consequences and provides comparisons to a Most Effective Profile.

Compared to other assessment tools and social-psychological theories: SYMLOG, plus other instruments, provides a 360-degree feedback process; confirms and expands information derived from the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI ); incorporates the dimensions identified in the FIRO-B ; and is well suited for use with the Kirton Adaption-Innovation Inventory (KAI ). SYMLOG is robust enough to cover the Five-Factor Model ("Big Five") as measured by the
NEO-PI (Five-Factor Inventory); is directly related to McClelland's Social Motives of Achievement, Affiliation, and Power; and clearly describes the Blake and Mouton Leadership Grid.

The proof and research basis is demonstrated in that SYMLOG is currently used in over 60 countries in 17 languages to provide integrated solutions to complex problems of social interaction. Drawn from these, the SYMLOG research data bank contains over 1,000,000 profiles. Most of these profiles are from work done in North America and conducted in the English language. Most current research focuses on effective individual leadership, teamwork, and organization development.

As a tool to measure the abuse of power Sinlog (aka SYMLOG) as it chronicles or logs the sinful behavior and effects on individuals impacted by leaders and reveals the results of leaders who pursue power at the expense of others, the mission, and ultimately themselves.

This paper’s challenge of defining, aligning, refining, and sanctifying leadership with respect to the Second Commandment has come to a close. We have reexamined the Second Commandment for fresh understanding with respect to leadership by defining important terms, their relevance and context in a new 5-D world, seen the potential results Biblically promised and forecast, then reviewed Sinlog, a power-tool to measure the abuses when power becomes that idol of leadership pursuit.

Scriptures teach that God deals not only with individuals, but also with families, ethnic groups, communities, and nations. Psalm 33 pronounces blessings upon "the nation whose God is the Lord." And Proverbs 14:34 says, righteousness "exalts a nation" but "sin is a reproach to any people," not just to individuals. Biblical history is replete with God"s many judgments upon whole cities and nations (Sodom, Nineveh, Babylon, Jerusalem, Egypt, Rome, et al.), and the
blessings of Abraham were promised long ago to "all the nations of the earth." In Matthew 25, the separation of sheep from goats concerns "all nations," not just individuals, and the book of Revelation foretells of "nations" walking in the light of the New Jerusalem as the "kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ" (21:24; 11:15). Indeed, "All nations shall serve Him!" (Psalm 72:11). (Blades, 1994)

Where do we go from here? "It all depends on leaders in the world community to translate concept into practice." (Hitt, 1996, p. xvi) Even a moral compass is not much help when you are falling off an ethical cliff, but maybe there is hope. We know we are more than conquerors. "We cannot eliminate evil from the world, but we can prevent its victory" (Hitt, 1996, p. xv)

We can hope. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb.11:1) While all is not seen in this five dimensional world, enlightenment through Christ can guide our path.

Avoiding self-promotion and proactively preventing any gods before the true God has become the goal of the Second Commandment: not to be idle, and not to be idol.
References


