

Have you ever broken either the 1st or 2nd commandments (no other god, no idolatrous worship)? I know I used to infringe on one or both.

Sophia Loren was a goddess - well, at least it seemed that way when I was 13. (My wife will be relieved to know that's no longer the case. Really.) Also, between the ages of 30 and 55, I would have put almost anything second to going surfing. And often did. Probably why God drew me inexorably towards north Norfolk; not much surf. Now I know there's more to life.

It could be anything, in fact, that can turn us away from knowing God the way we should. For example: apparently Norwich City has a football team. Which is nice. As long as it's not the most important thing in your life!

All a matter of priorities. Jesus said that we only need to remember two things - love God with all your being and love others as yourself - in order for everything else to fall into place. Then we have the fullness of real life. Eternal joy secured, therefore the freedom to have a taste of it now.

The distractions can be very subtle, though. There's no ban on having "graven images" per se, but there is on worshipping them. Ironically, Christian worship can, itself, end up being the thing we worship; the minutiae of what and how our worship is done, too focussed on saying the "right words" instead of listening to what Jesus is directing us to do - and doing it.

I understand how that can be a turn-off to many of you who find no relevance in our faith or its current expression in worship. So I want to ask, what would help you to know God in a way that made sense and give your life meaning? We Church members are keen to be able to share this way of life, and invite you to tell us how we can do this both in meaningful gatherings in church and/or other ways.

We, as a group do, of course, have certain fixed points of reference by which we are able to follow Jesus. However, our position is overall really quite flexible (as is, incidentally, the Bible, which answers everything - if you know where to look). Tell me, as we bump into one another, what do you think?