

“Reverence God’s Name”

Exodus 20:7

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I. Introduction

- A. The Ten Commandments were given to show us:
 - 1. God’s holiness
 - 2. God’s will
 - a) Ten laws for living
 - 3. Man’s sin and need of a savior
 - a) Jesus
- B. No one is saved by keeping God’s law
 - 1. “Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)
 - 2. Salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - a) “That the righteousness requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:4)
- C. Today, we come to the third commandment
 - 1. What does it mean?
 - 2. How is it broken?
 - 3. How is it kept?

II. What Does it Mean to Take God’s Name in Vain?

- A. The first commandment told us to worship God only
 - 1. The second commandment told us to worship Him in spirit and truth
 - 2. The third commandment tells us we are to reverence God’s name
 - a) The New Testament counterpart to this command is found in Matthew 6:9
 - b) The Lord’s Prayer
 - c) “Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed by thy name”
 - 3. Three keywords in the command
 - a) “Take”
 - 1) To “take up” or “to bear”
 - b) “Name”
 - 1) Name of the Lord, thy God
 - 2) It is God’s nature, character, personality, and authority
 - c) “Vain”
 - 1) Unreal, empty, frivolous
 - 4. To take God’s name in vain is when our lips, lives, beliefs, or behavior dishonor God’s nature and character
 - a) We don’t hallow or reverence God’s name

III. How is the Commandment Broken?

- A. Frivolous oath-taking

1. It is not broken by civil courtroom oaths
 2. It is a careless or frivolous swearing in God's name
 - a) (Isaiah 48:1)
 - b) They were using God's name but not respecting the very God they were swearing by
 - c) Illustration- The Jews circumvented "swearing in God's name"
 - d) (Matthew 5:34)
 - e) Illustration- People say, "I swear to God..."
 - 1) (Matthew 5:37)
- B. Profanity
1. Obscene language or swearing
 2. Profanity is the linguistic crutch of the inarticulate
 3. It is so common today in our ungodly culture
 - a) People use God's name to curse and swear
 - b) Jesus said, "it comes from the heart"
 - c) (Colossians 3:8)
 - d) (Ephesians 4:29)
 4. Only God can tame the tongue
- C. Hypocrisy
1. Whenever our practice contradicts our profession, we are taking God's name in vain
 2. Jesus said, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46)
 - a) Illustration- Praying "in Jesus' name," but we want our own will
 - b) In our worship
 3. You say, "it is no big deal"
 - a) The punishment for taking God's name in vain
 - b) (Acts 5)
 - c) God takes sin seriously

IV. How Do We Keep this Command?

- A. You must be born again
 1. (John 3)
- B. You must be filled with the Holy Spirit
 1. (Ephesians 5:18)
- C. You must truly know who God is
 1. Bible
- D. You must replace profanity and hypocrisy with integrity
 1. The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles and moral uprightness
 2. The state of being whole and undivided
- E. Use your life and lips to praise the Lord, proclaim the Lord, and pray to the Lord
 1. "Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name"
 - a) In me (personally)
 - b) In my family (domestically)
 - c) In the world (publicly)
 - d) In your church (corporately)

2. (Psalm 34:3)