

“Name Above All Names”

Exodus 20:7

How do we break the third Command? There are at least three ways that we misuse the Lord’s name. First, we misuse it when we speak it lightly or in cursing. Secondly, we take it in vain when we use His name to promote falsehood and thirdly, we misuse His name when we do not live in a way that honors Him, because as Christians God’s name is associated with everything we do.

How do we keep and fulfill the third Command? Not only must we put off the misuse the Lord’s name but we must also put on the right use of it. There are many ways to do this. We use it rightly when we pray as Christ taught us, “Hallowed be Thy name...” (Mtt. 6:9). We honor His name when we assemble ourselves with the church to corporately praise Him and when we seek to prevent the misuse of His name by others. We fulfill the command when we proclaim His name to the ends of the earth, when we look to God for help in distress (Ps. 50:14-15), and when we do all for His glory (I Cor. 10:31).

What is the motivation for keeping the third Command?

There are both positive and negative motivations for obeying this important command. On the negative side, the command comes with a warning of judgment to those who break it. We see in Leviticus 24:13-16 that God commanded the death of one who broke it. We deserve to go to Hell immediately when we curse even once! On the positive side, as Christians we want to honor the Lord’s name because we know and love the Great God who has made us, saved us, and who is most worthy (Is. 26:8)!

***Questions for Discussion:**

1. How are you most tempted to take God’s name in vain?
2. Why did God command the death of the one who misused His name in Leviticus 24?
3. How is God using your life for the glory of His name?

(Reading/Meditation Assignment: Exodus 20:8-11)