



Lecture # 10 Part 2

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man’s Duty to God (Part 3): Commandment Three Concerns God’s Name—Never Misuse God’s Name; Never Use Profanity or Vulgarity, Exodus 20:7.

Exodus 20:7 (NASB)

⁷ “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”

Exodus 20:7 (KJV)

⁷ “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

Exodus 20:7 (AMP)

⁷ “You shall not use *or* repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

Exodus 20:7 (MSG)

⁷ “No using the name of GOD, your God, in curses or silly banter; GOD won’t put up with the irreverent use of his name.”

(Exodus 20:7) Introduction—Cursing—Profanity—Swearing—Tongue—

Speech—Vulgarity: profanity and vulgarity are sweeping the earth. Cursing, swearing, foul and filthy talk, polluted and distasteful language—even using God’s name in vain—all forms of profanity and vulgarity are flowing from the mouth of man. Words that expose a prejudicial and disrespectful heart and that degrade others are even peppering the daily conversation of people.

Unfortunately, man’s language has always included *gutter talk*. But today, *gutter talk*—profanity—seems to be running rampant. Profanity is becoming more and more accepted by society. Profanity is becoming one of the most prevailing sins and ‘popular’ vices of the world. This is the subject covered by this commandment, a subject that must be heeded or else the very foundation of society—human language with all the emotions it arouses—will collapse. Simply stated, profanity is a creeping paralysis that will destroy civilization.

How could profanity and vulgarity possibly have such a devastating effect upon society? Because civilization is bound together by the civility and decency of human language and by God’s grace being poured out upon mankind. Profanity will cause civilization to disintegrate into verbal attacks that lead to personal violence and lawlessness. Profanity—foul, dirty cursing and indecent, prejudicial, and damning talk—destroys human language and arouses emotions and reactions that cause people to strike out against fellow citizens. Thereby civil and decent societies are corrupted and civilizations destroyed—all because human language lost its decency and civility; all because profanity paralyzed the growth and development of human relationships. This is



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the subject of this great commandment: *Commandment Three Concerns God's Name— Never Misuse God's Name; Never Use Vulgarly, [Exodus 20:7](#).*

1. Who is to obey this commandment? You (v.7).
2. How long was this commandment to be in force? Forever (v.7).
3. What is forbidden by this commandment (v.7)?
4. Why did God give this commandment (v.7)?
5. What is the decision required by this commandment? Obedience (v.7).

1. (Exodus 20:7) Commandments, The Ten— Obedience— Profanity— Vulgarly— Cursing— Swearing: Who is to obey this commandment?

Exodus 20:7 (NASB)

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”

You. It is a *personal* commandment: a commandment given to you individually. How you use God's name—how you treat God's name—is of vital concern to God. He is the great Creator, the Sovereign **LORD** and Majesty, the Supreme Ruler and Judge of the universe; therefore, His name is always to be honored, praised, and worshipped. Because of His person—who He is—God demands and insists that you never—no, never—misuse His name.

- a. *You* must never curse nor abuse His name.
- b. *You* must never use His name in a frivolous or insincere way.
- c. *You* must never take the name of the LORD God in vain.

This commandment is directed to *you*. It is directed to me. It is directed to every human being upon the earth.

James 5:12 (NASB)

¹²“But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.”

2. (Exodus 20:7) Commandments, The Ten— Obedience— Cursing— Language, Foul: How long was this commandment to be in force?

Exodus 20:7 (NASB)

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”



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As long as people live. No person who has ever lived, who is living now, or who ever will live is ever to misuse God's name. The true and living God is *God Almighty*, the Sovereign **LORD** and Majesty of the universe, the *Ruler and Judge* of all people.

Therefore, any person is a fool to misuse God's name.....

- a. a fool to curse God
- b. a fool to use God's name in any abusive way or in any frivolous or insincere way

No person of any generation or period of history—as long as God lives, as long as God exists, from everlasting to everlasting—is to misuse or take God's name in vain. This is what God demands; this is one of the ways we are to relate to God. This commandment is in force as long as we live and as long as God exists, forever.

Deuteronomy 28:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you.”

Isaiah 8:13 (NASB)

¹³“It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread.”

3. (Exodus 20:7) Commandments, The Ten—Obedience—Cursing—Swearing—Tongue—Language, Foul—Name, of God—God, Name of: What is forbidden by the third commandment:

Exodus 20:7 (NASB)

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain” (**Exodus 20:7**)?
How is this commandment broken or violated?

The Hebrew word “vain” (*lassaw*) means “empty, meaningless, thoughtless, senseless, frivolous, worthless, groundless.” It means using God's name in a thoughtless and insincere way. The root of the word (*shawu*) has the idea of a vapor that fades and vanishes away, a vapor that is meaningless and worthless. It also has the idea of a tempest, a storm, a tornado that is erratic, that jumps here and there, that causes destruction and devastation, that is totally senseless and destructive.

How does a person misuse the Lord's name? There are at least four ways that a person misuses God's name or takes God's name in vain.

1. A person misuses God's name or takes God's name in vain by *profanity and vulgarity*. This commandment forbids profanity.



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- a. Profanity is the cursing, abusive, bitter, blasphemous use of God's name or of any of God's creation. By creation is meant everything within the universe. Thus taking God's name in vain, misusing God's name, includes all uses of vulgarity and profanity: the use of foul, distasteful slang words, and even words such as damn, hell, darn, and other such words.

What do such words have to do with misusing God's name? Very simply, when we use profanity, we are profaning and cursing something in creation. And no person has the right to profane and curse anything in God's creation.

We must never forget this one fact:

The earth is the Lord's: He is the great Creator and Sustainer of everything within the universe. He is the Sovereign **LORD** and Majesty of the universe itself and of everything within the universe. All creation exists because of God, and all creation stands to the praise of God's name. Therefore, to profane or curse anything in creation is to take God's name in vain. To use profanity—to profane and curse anything—is destructive, totally senseless and worthless.

- b. Profanity is a terrible thing when it curses God Himself or uses His name to swear. Using God's name is an insult cast in His face and will result in terrible judgment upon the profane curser.

Remember, a person's name stands for the person. When a person's name is mentioned, if we know the person, our thoughts immediately picture him: who he is and what he is, his nature, character, behavior, and beliefs. We have an immediate image of the person, the kind of person he is.

This is especially true with God. God is holy and righteous. He is loving, kind, and gracious. God is the great Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the sovereign **LORD** and Majesty of all. Moreover, God is the great Redeemer, the Savior of mankind. He is God Almighty, the Most High God, the **LORD** God of the universe, whose name is set above the heavens, and whose name is called **Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace** ([Isaiah 9:6](#)).

Isaiah 9:6 (NASB)

⁶“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

God's name is holy. God's name is different from all other names, set apart from all other names. God's name is above, before, and over all other names. God's name is higher than the heavens, far above every name that is named, in both heaven and earth, visible and invisible.



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The point is this: God's holy name should arouse us to stand in awe before Him, never to curse Him. God's holy name should stir us to reverence and adore Him, even fear and tremble before Him.

The last thing any person should ever do is misuse God's name:

- a. use His name as a curse word
- b. use His name in a vulgar, disgusting way
- c. use His name in a profane way

Thought 1. Profanity is like a storm, a terrible, terrifying tempest that is destructive and totally senseless and worthless. Profanity is a prevailing sin that is sweeping our nation and world today. Profanity is rapidly becoming so acceptable that it is a part of everyday conversation. The terrible danger of profanity has been forgotten. The danger is tragically ignored and even denied.

Nevertheless, the danger is a true fact: profanity is a creeping paralysis.....

- a. that destroys the source of respect between people, between the citizens of a diverse society and nation
- b. that destroys the moral strength and esteem of a people for one another and for their nation
- c. that corrupts the language of a nation and people
- d. that destroys the ability of a people to continue to grow, build, advance, enhance, enlarge, and increase the quality of their lives, society, and nation.

Profanity will destroy a nation by corrupting the language and respect of people for one another. Over time, profanity will attack and destroy everything held dear by society. **Note how a foul mouth destroys:**

Leviticus 19:12 (NASB)

¹² "You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD."

Psalm 10:7-8 (NASB)

⁷ "His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is mischief and wickedness.

⁸ He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the hiding places he kills the innocent; His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate."

Psalm 10:11 (NASB)

¹¹ "He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it."

Romans 3:13-18 (NASB)

¹³ "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

¹⁴ "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";



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¹⁵ **“THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,
¹⁶ DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,
¹⁷ AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”
¹⁸ “THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”**

James 5:12 (NASB)

¹² **“But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.”**

2. A person misuses God’s name by *false swearing*. Perjury—lying under oath—is wrong. Calling upon God to witness to a lie is misusing God’s name. False swearing may take place before a neighbor, a business partner, a wife or husband, a judge or jury. Tragically, when we are called upon to swear or take an oath to verify that we are telling the truth, far too often we lie: we swear falsely.

Matthew 5:33-37 (NASB)

³³ **“Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.’**

³⁴ **“But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,**

³⁵ **or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.**

³⁶ **“Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.**

³⁷ **“But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.”**

Leviticus 6:2-3 (NASB)

² **“When a person sins and acts unfaithfully against the LORD, and deceives his companion in regard to a deposit or a security entrusted to him, or through robbery, or if he has extorted from his companion,
³ or has found what was lost and lied about it and sworn falsely, so that he sins in regard to any one of the things a man may do.”**