



Lecture # 11 Part 1

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."

3. A person misuses God's name by using His name in some *irreverent way*, in some frivolous, dishonoring, or light way. How does a person do this? *Reverence* is the key word. When God's name is used, it is always to be in a reverent way. God's name is never to be used in any irreverent way whatsoever.

a. All the little sayings that use God's name in an irreverent or careless way are wrong:

1. God Almighty
2. Sweet Jesus
3. Lord have mercy
4. Oh God
5. The Man upstairs
6. Somebody up there
7. God damn
8. God or Jesus Christ or Christ (by themselves, when spoken carelessly)

Any use of God's name that is not reverent—that is not in prayer, praise, witness, or worship—is wrong.

b. All the flippant joking about God, the frivolous, humorous stories that use God's name, are wrong.

c. All the prayers that carelessly and repetitiously use God's name in a *thoughtless* and *meaningless* way are wrong: "Lord do this; Lord do that," "Lord bless" and "Lord help."



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God's name is sacred: it is holy, righteous, and pure. God's name is the name of the **Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient God**. God's name is to be worshipped and praised—always revered—never used in a thoughtless, meaningless, flippant, frivolous way; never used in a dishonoring or light way. God's name is never to be misused, never to be taken in vain.

Ephesians 5:3-4 (NASB)

³ **But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;**
⁴ **and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting [crude, rude, foul, dirty joking],, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.**

Thought 1. Adrian Rogers, in his book **Ten Secrets for a Successful Family**, says this: “When you use...profanity, it shows two things: an empty head and a wicked heart. You see, profanity reveals a feeble mind trying to express itself. But it also reveals a wicked heart truly expressing itself. ***'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh,'*** Jesus said in **Matthew 12:34...** A profane mouth reveals a profane heart!” Or, as the excellent preacher **Vance Havner** once said, “What’s down in the well comes up in the bucket!”

4. A person misuses God's name by **hypocrisy**. This commandment prohibits using God's name hypocritically, forbids claiming the name of the Lord in a hypocritical way.

A hypocrite.....

- a. is a person who professes the name of God but lives for self and the world
- b. is a person who uses God's name to manipulate people (to get what he wants)
- c. is a person who uses God's name to secure support for projects that are not necessarily God's will (for example, politicians or religious leaders)
- d. is a person who uses God's name to secure followers, to deceive people

Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ **“Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.**

²² **Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'**

²³ **And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'**”



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Luke 6:46 (NASB)

⁴⁶“Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?”

Isaiah 48:1 (NASB)

¹“Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are named Israel And who came forth from the loins of Judah, Who swear by the name of the LORD And invoke the God of Israel, *But* not in truth nor in righteousness.”

Thought 1. In the early days of American history, the great general George Washington took a strong stand against profanity. He wrote in his orderly book of **August 3, 1776**: “The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane swearing, a vice hitherto little known in the American army, is growing into fashion...He hopes the officers will, by example as well as influence, endeavor to check it, and that both they and the men will reflect that we can have little hope of the blessing of heaven on our arms if we insult it by our impiety and profanity.”

4. (Exodus 20:7) Commandments, The Ten— Judgment— Cursing— Swearing— Sin, Results: Why did God give 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.”

Why does God forbid vulgarity? Why must we never misuse God’s name, never swear, curse, nor damn anything upon earth, never damn anything in creation? **Two reasons are given** within the commandment itself.

1. First, you must not use vulgarity or misuse God’s name for a very clear reason: because the **LORD is your God (Exodus 20:2, 7)**.

Exodus 20:2 (NASB)

²“I am the LORD **your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

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.”

If you have accepted Christ as your Savior, then the **LORD** has saved you from Egypt, from the enslavements and bondages of this earth (**Exodus 20:2**). He has saved you from sin, shame, and death.

He has saved you from the bondages of the flesh, from.....

- a. adultery and immorality
- b. drunkenness and carousing
- c. false worship and idolatry
- d. hatred and strife



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- e. jealousy and envy
- f. wild living and sensuality
- g. cursing and lying
- h. sorcery and witchcraft
- i. anger and division
- j. selfish ambition and greed

And on and on. God has saved you from all this to a life of love, joy, and peace. Moreover, He has saved you from death and the judgment to come. He has saved you from hell itself. You are going to live forever, eternally with Him. The **LORD** is now your God. How could you ever misuse His name?

Now note: if you have accepted Christ, then all the above can be yours. God will save you from the enslavements and bondages of this earth and give you life eternal. The point is this: the drive and energy of your heart must be not to misuse the name of the **LORD** God, the Savior of the world. The drive and energy of your life must be to stand in awe of His name: to praise, worship, serve, and bear testimony to His name

Psalm 100:4 (NASB)

⁴“Enter His gates with thanksgiving *And* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.”

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.”

Isaiah 57:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell *on* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Philippians 2:8-11 (NASB)

⁸“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Hebrews 13:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”

1 Peter 2:9 (NASB)

⁹“But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you



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may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

2. Second, you must not use vulgarity, must not misuse God’s name for a terrifying reason: because the **LORD** holds you accountable if you misuse His name. The word “**guiltless**” (*waqah*) means that God will not count us clear or free from blame. He will not count us clean or pure, innocent or guiltless. God will not acquit us, not let us go unpunished.

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.”

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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.”

A man may curse God or swear falsely to his wife or neighbor or even to some jury, and he may not be corrected or punished. But God knows that the man cursed His name or lied, and Scripture is clear: God will punish him. God will exact revenge upon the person who insulted His great and glorious name. In fact, note what Scripture says: the person who curses and misuses God’s name stands as an *enemy of God*.

Psalms 139:20 (NASB)

²⁰“For they speak against You wickedly, And **Your enemies** take **Your name in vain.**”

Psalms 139:20 (NCV)

²⁰“They say evil things about you. **Your enemies** use your name **thoughtlessly.**”

Psalms 139:20 (ESV)

²⁰“They speak against you with malicious intent; **your enemies** take your **name in vain.**”

Psalms 139:20 (NLT)

²⁰“They blaspheme you; **your enemies** **misuse your name.**”

- a. The person who uses profanity openly declares that he is the sworn enemy of the high and holy God. This person is condemned; God shall avenge His name and judge the *curser*.
- b. The person who swears falsely deliberately declares that he is the sworn enemy of the true and righteous God. The person is condemned; God shall avenge His name and judge the *false swearer*.



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- c. The person who uses God's name in an irreverent way, who is careless and thoughtless in the use of God's name, will not be guiltless. He shall be condemned. God shall avenge His name and judge the **irreverent person**.
- d. The person who uses God's name hypocritically stands as the sworn enemy of God. The hypocrite is condemned. God shall avenge His name and severely judge the **hypocrite**.
- e. The bold sinner—the person who misuses God's name—must appear before God and give an account for his cursing and lying and for his irreverent use of God's holy name. If a person curses God, he curses the name of the high and lofty One, the name of the **LORD** God Himself, the only living and true God, the only holy name that could have saved him from death and judgment to come. God shall avenge His name and judge the **bold sinner**.

Psalm 109:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ "He also loved cursing, so it came to him; And he did not delight in blessing, so it was far from him."

Malachi 3:5 (NASB)

⁵ "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts."

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 (NASB)

⁷ "And *to give relief* to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

Hebrews 9:27 (NASB)

²⁷ "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment."

2 Peter 3:7 (NASB)

⁷ "But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."

Jude 1:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ "It was also about these men *that* Enoch, *in* the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,

¹⁵ to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly



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way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Revelation 21:8 (NASB)

⁸“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars [cursers, false swearers],, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”