

## The Third Commandment

**Read:** Exodus 20:7

**Main idea:** We violate the sanctity of God's authority when we reflect God's character in an inaccurate way or when we misrepresent God by our words, actions or motives

**Key Verses:** "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." (20:7 ESV)

### Key Principles:

- We violate this commandment when we try to make our name famous rather than God's name.
- We are also prohibited from swearing an oath by God's name when we have no intention of fulfilling the commitment or when we're using it flippantly.
- We are also not to associate God's name with things that God Himself would never associate like political parties or selfish agendas.
- It is forbidden for us to speak on behalf of God when He has not spoken on that particular issue.
- We are never to commercialize God's name or use it lightly.
- When we don't worship in a way that honors God's name or we openly live in sin after claiming to be His child we take His name in vain.

### Discussion:

1. Why do you think the "name" of the Lord is so important? Read Exodus 9:16, Micah 4:5 & Numbers 6:27. What do they tell us about God's name?
2. What did you think this commandment was about before this week? What surprised you the most about this commandment after studying it?
3. Read Leviticus 19:12. In what ways do we profane God's name today? Why does this matter to God?
4. How do we use God's name presumptuously as His children? Why do you think we do that?
5. How does taking the Lord's name in vain affect our witness to unbelievers? How can we honor the Lord's name in such a way that it points others to Christ?

### Prayer:

- Pray that we would give honor to God's name instead of taking it in vain.
- Pray:
  - That we would honor the Lord's name with our speech.
  - That we would honor the Lord's name with our thoughts.
  - That we would honor the Lord's name with our actions.
  - That we would honor the Lord's name with our beliefs.

### **III: The Sanctity of God's Authority**

Exodus 20:7

**Exodus 20:7** - *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.*

#### **I. Why are names important?**

1. God's name represents His power. Romans 1:19-20
2. God's name represents His character. Psalm 106:1
3. God's name represents His authority. Revelation 1:8

#### **II. What sins are prohibited?**

1. Do not profane God's name. Leviticus 19:12
2. Do not blaspheme God's name. 1 Samuel 3:13
3. Do not use God's name presumptuously. Acts 19:13

#### **III. What duties are required?**

1. Honor Him with your words. James 3:10
2. Honor Him with your thoughts. Psalm 145:5
3. Honor Him with your actions. 2 Timothy 2:19
4. Honor Him with your beliefs. Galatians 1:8

NEXT WEEK:

### **IV: The Sanctity of Time**

Exodus 20:8-11