

## The Ten Commandments

### Commandment 3: You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God

To illustrate the value of one's name this story was told by a Sandra Hanson:  
One summer, my daughter taught the 4-year-olds at vacation Bible school. The first day she gave everyone yarn necklace nametags to wear around their necks. After the recreation time, one little girl, whose name tag had slipped behind her, came running up to my daughter and excitedly proclaimed, "Teacher, Teacher, I lost my price tag!"

Exodus 20: 7

#### 1) The Name of God

- The name of God is more than a label of identification
- The name of God is:
  - A revelation of who God is – His being, character and work
    - Isaiah 47: 4 "Our Redeemer--the LORD Almighty is his name--is the Holy One of Israel."
    - Exodus 20: 2 "I am the LORD your God"
    - 1 Kings 18: 24 "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire--he is God."
    - Isaiah 57: 15 "For this is what the high and lofty One says-- he who lives forever, whose name is holy"
  - It is the stamp of God's authority
    - Deut 21: 5 "The priests, the sons of Levi, shall step forward, for the LORD your God has chosen them to minister and to pronounce blessings in the name of the LORD and to decide all cases of dispute and assault."
- The Old Testament refers to:
  - The name of God (Daniel 2: 20)
  - The name of the LORD
- The New Testament refers to:
  - The name of God (Revelation 16: 9)
  - The name of the Lord
  - The name of Jesus
    - Philippians 2: 10 – 11 "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."
  - The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- Both the New and Old Testament give equal authority to the name of God in all their forms
- The Jews would not say Jehovah as they considered it too sacred and would either leave it out or use the term "the name of the Lord".
  - We ought to learn from them what it is to revere the name of the Lord.

#### 2) Ways that the Name of the Lord is misused

- By breaking the covenant
  - When we don't keep the terms of the covenant we break the covenant and bring dishonour to the name of God

- We are commanded not to steal thus when we steal it is not only us who earns a bad reputation but the name of the Lord is brought into disrepute because we go by the name of Christian – we have taken the name of our Lord.
- Story of Alexander the Great who lined up all his soldiers who fled from a battle. He approached one of them and asked his name. “Alexander” he replied. Alexander the Great ordered him to change his ways or change his name.
- Bad oaths in the name of the Lord
  - Leviticus 5: 4 “If a person thoughtlessly takes an oath to do anything, whether good or evil--in any matter one might carelessly swear about--even though he is unaware of it, in any case when he learns of it he will be guilty.”
  - Matthew 5: 33 – 37 Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’<sup>34</sup> But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;<sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.<sup>36</sup> And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.<sup>37</sup> Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.
  - We dishonour the name of the Lord when we make promises and break them.
- Hypocrisy
  - Matthew 15: 7 – 9 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”
  - The name of the Lord is dishonoured when we are hypocrites – we use the name of the Lord for our own gain rather than to bring honour and glory to Him.
- Profanity
  - Leviticus 22: 32 – 33 “Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who makes you holy and who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD.”
  - The name of is profaned daily as if were something so common that it be thrown on the garbage after using it.
  - Profanity is a type of swearing that means “to make common”. David Hocking
  - We should never use the name of the Lord in a profane way in any form
  - Jesus is the name above all names not a common name.
- Being flippant
  - The name of the Lord is holy and we should not misuse it but using it in a joking flippant way as if it has no value at all.

### 3) Consequences for misusing the name of the LORD

- The Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.
- Leviticus 24: 15 – 16 “Say to the Israelites: ‘If anyone curses his God, he will be held responsible; anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death.’”