

8/16/13

God Is To Be Honored

Ex. 20:7

The editor of a small weekly newspaper in a town in the West was hart put to it one week for a copy to fill his columns. So he had his compositor set up the Ten Commandments, and ran them without making any editorial comment. Three days after the paper was published he received a letter saying: "Please cancel my subscription. You're getting too personal." #4933

The liberal progressives of the world have gone crazy with license to do and say whatever they want and they expect others to tolerate their rude, disrespectful, unpatriotic, godless attitudes and arrogant opinions but if you mention God or a belief in absolute right and wrong, they are the most intolerant.

Yet one day each will stand before the same holy God that gave to Moses the Ten Commandments.

As we continue our series on the Ten Commandment, we come to the Third Commandment, which we want to examine from three perspectives: Ex. 20:7

- I. The proclamation of the Commandment. vs. 7a

- II. The explanation for the Commandment. vs. 7b
- III. The relation of the Commandment to the first two commandments.
 - I. **The proclamation of the Third Commandment. vs. 7a**
 - A. The people being addressed in the Third Commandment once again are the people of God.
 - * "You shall not."
 1. The prohibition once again is personal.
 - a. The phrase "you shall", like the first and second, the individual Jew.
 - 1) The nation is the corporate body of Yahweh, yet He held each person accountable for the ten words.
 - 2) This commandment like the first two, would be applicable to all future generations of Jews
 - b. The prohibition was to every person without exception.
 - 1) Be they a Father.
 - 2) Be they a mother.
 - 3) Be they a son.
 - 4) Be they a daughter.
 2. The prohibition regards the third word, like the first two is in the negative.
 - a. Eight fall into the negatives commandments, the first to the third

and the sixth to the tenth. vs. 3, 4-6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

- b. Two positive ones, the fourth and the fifth. vs. 8-11, 12
- c. The term for words “devar”, in verse one remember means a declaration, though we commonly call them the Ten Commandments.
 - 1) Literally it is the “Ten Words”. Ex. 34:28, Deut. 4:13, 10:14
 - 2) They were written by the finger of God. Ex. 31:18, 24:18
 - 3) Two tables were written on both sides, the work and the writing of God engraved on stones. Ex. 32:15-16

B. The Third Commandment was a prohibition against dishonoring the name of God.

* “Take the name of the LORD your God in vain.”

- 1. The phrase “to take the name” refers to the taking it to oneself and for one’s benefit.
 - a. The word take “nasa” means to lift, bear or used or refer to by an individual to pronounce it with their mouth misusing it.
 - 1) It presupposes personal privilege of knowing Yahweh.

- 2) It presupposes a person responsibility for such an action.
 - 3) It presupposes accountability to God for the particular action.
 - 4) It presupposes the desire to avail oneself of the power, presence and knowledge of God who is invoked in the petition or credited with the response.
 - 5) It presupposes the ability to keep the commandment, to not take the name of the LORD in vain.
2. The name of the LORD is a major subject in the Scriptures.
- a. “But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My **name** may be declared in all the earth.” Ex. 9:16
 - b. “The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His **name**.” Ex. 15:3
 - c. “You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His **name**.” Deut. 6:13
 - d. “At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His **name**, to this day.” Deut. 10:8
 - e. “And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in

My **name**, I will require it of him.”
Deut. 18:19

- f. “But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My **name**, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the **name** of other gods, that prophet shall die.” Deut. 18:20
 - g. “For I proclaim the **name** of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.” Deut. 32:3
3. The people of God were to respect and honor the name of Yahweh.
- a. God told Moses to tell the children of Israel, when he returned to Egypt, “This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.” Ex. 3:15h-i
 - 1) This was God’s name forever, revealing His person, authority, power, His fame, all that He was, His character and reputation.
 - 2) The name was a memorial to all generations, His acts, mighty deeds, promises and glory through all generations.
 - b. The word LORD Y@hovah”, is God’s revelation of Himself, called the Tetragrammaton, four consonants YHWH, no vowels were written, being unpronounceable around the

third century B.C. and is based on the same verb “to be” I AM Who I AM.
Ex. 3:14a-b

- 1) The word “hayah” is the singular verb “to be”, “to happen”, means continuing, unfinished action, “I am being that I am being”, active presence.
 - 2) “He that will be, He that is and He that was”, I will be that I will be, expressing a perfect, unconditional and independent Eternal Self-existence.
 - 3) The phrase “I am Yahweh”, depicts His character and has been said to constitute Who He is, all He is, all He says and all He does.
 - 4) The formula asserts His authority, “He is the One Who always is”, sufficient for every need.
4. The people of God were not to be treacherous to the name of Yahweh.
- a. The particular reason being that they were identified with Him, “your God”. He was their personal God,
 - 1) The phrase appears four other times in the Ten Commandments, emphasizing the horrific betrayal in violating these commandments. vs. 2, 5, 10, 12

- 2) Yahweh was their God through past covenant with the Patriarchs, “Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’” Ex. 3:15a-g
 - 3) “I will **walk among** you and be your God, and you shall be My people.” Lev. 26:12
- b. Therefore the particular restriction was to not take His name in vain.
- 1) The word vain. “shav” means emptiness, worthlessness, with the sense of falsehood or false swearing.
 - 2) The idea is of using, referring to or expressing the name of God in a common or dishonest way, without honesty or respect, in view of Who He is.
- c. The channel is the tongue of man.
- 1) James says, “Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole

- body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.” Ja. 2:5-9
- 2) “Keep your **tongue** from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.” Ps. 34:13
 - 3) “I said, “I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my **tongue**; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me.” Ps. 39:1
 - 4) “You give your mouth to evil, And your **tongue** frames deceit.” Ps. 50:19
 - 5) “Your **tongue** devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.” Ps. 52:2
 - 6) “Who sharpen their **tongue** like a sword, And bend their bows to shoot their arrows--bitter words.” Ps. 64:3

Illustration

The false prophets took God's name in vain, "And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy **lies in My name**. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart." Jer. 14:14

Application

1. People take the name of God in vain when they swear under oath in the name of God and then lie.

- a. This does not prohibit taking an oath in court.
- b. Perjury is one of the greatest offences, both moral and ethical, in that it will undermine and destroy a civil, orderly and safe and productive society.
- c. The Egyptians punished perjury by death.
- d. Jesus said to let our yes be yes and our no, no, being a person is integrity and truth.

Matt 5:37a

* Let God be true but every man a liar!

Rom. 3:4a

2. People take the name of God in vain by using the name of God in every sentence vainly, without reverence, to pass themselves off as spiritual, which is far worse than the pagan who used God's name, damning people in the name of God.

* "If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome **name**, THE LORD YOUR GOD." Deut. 28:58

3. People take the name of God in vain when they go to church and they don't live what they are taught and learn.

* "For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written." Rom. 2:24

4. People take the name of God in vain by praying to God and then not trusting Him or learning God's word but not believing it, both are unbelief.

* "But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from **faith**; for whatever is not from **faith** is **sin**." Rom. 14:23

5. People take the name of God in vain by misrepresenting the word of God to people.

* "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people **twist** to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." 2Pet. 3:16

6. People take the name of God in vain by joining God to their evil and wicked service to God.

* "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves." Matt. 23:14-15

7. People will be confronted by Jesus regarding taking His name in vain.

* “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” Matt. 7:21-23

The proclamation of the Third Commandment is against the abuse of God’s name!

II. The explanation for the Third Commandment. vs. 7b

* ”For the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

A. The Lord Yahweh would and will hold the person guilty, who takes the name of God in vain.

1. The person would be acting irreverent against their knowledge of God.
2. The person would be acting irreverent against the witness of God on Mount Horeb.
3. The person would be acting irreverent against the holiness of God.
4. The person would be acting irreverent against the only God.

5. The person would be acting irreverent against the First table of the law.
6. The person would be acting irreverent to the covenant they had entered into by sacrifice and an oath.
7. The person would be acting irreverent to the prohibition and promise of judgment and challenge God through rebellion

B. The Lord Yahweh will be judging the individual according to the measure of light he or she possessed.

1. The people were the ones God had delivered from Egypt.
2. The people were the ones who had crossed the Red Sea on dry ground.
3. The people were the one’s present at Mount Sinai, the very place Yahweh had commanded Moses to bring the people to serve Him. Ex. 3:12
4. The people knew Sinai communicated the holiness of God. Ex. 19:1-8
5. The people were the one’s instructed by Moses to prepare the people to meet with their Holy God. Ex. 19:9-15
- d. The people witnessed the manifestation of Theophanies, as evidence of the holiness of God, heard His voice and it brought fear upon the people. Ex. 19:16-25

- e. Remember Exodus 19 is the introduction to the third division, to enter into covenant with God by law, emphasizing God is holy. Ex. 19-24
 - 1) The covenant was declared to Israel, revealing the holiness of God. Ex. 19
 - 2) The ten commandment given to Israel confirm the holiness of God, though angels. Ex. 20. Acts 7:53, Gal. 3:19
 - 3) The social and civil judgments, statutes and ordinances for Israel affirmed the justice of a holy God. Ex. 21-23
 - 4) The covenant entered into by Israel testified to their commitment to a holy God. Ex. 24

C. The Lord Yahweh Himself will be the judge of the person by His flawless attributes.

- 1. The qualifications for God to judge man are His natural or incommunicable attributes of God are possessed by God alone, they are not imparted to the believer!
 - a. Omnipotence, all powerful.
 - b. Omnipresence, all knowing.
 - c. Omniscience.
 - d. Foreknowledge, all knowing before hand.
 - e. Wisdom, the perfect application of knowledge and information.

- f. Eternal, ever existing, outside of time.
 - g. Infinite, unlimited, self-determinate.
 - h. Immutable, ever constant in all His attributes, never increasing or decreasing.
 - i. Sovereign, unaffected, unrestricted, unhindered by anything, acting independent and perfect in all decisions.
2. The other attributes of God are His moral or communicable attributes of God are possessed by God also but they are imparted to the believer!
- a. Holiness, He is separate from man, without sin.
 - b. Righteousness, He is equitable in His dealings with man.
 - c. Faithful, He is true in all He says and does towards man.
 - d. Mercy, He is compassionate to man.
 - e. Grace., He is abundantly benevolent towards man.
 - f. Goodness, God's action to benefit His creation.
 - g. Kindness, the pity of God for man.
 - h. Love, He is caring, protective and providing.
 - i. Patience, He is slow to anger or wrath.

- D.** The Lord Yahweh will be judging the individuals for taking the name His God in vain.
1. The words are the external and primary evidence against the person.
 - a. They have used the holy name of God without true devotion.
 - b. They have used the holy name of God without loyal and faithful love.
 - c. They have used the holy name of God with dishonest words, feign words.
 - d. They have used the words of the holy God to advance or benefit themselves.
 2. The words are the manifestation of thoughts behind the words, this is the internal evidence against the person.
 - a. The initial thought of misusing the name of God.
 - b. The contemplating of the goal using the name of God.
 - c. The plotting of the plan to achieve the goal, using the name of God.
 - d. The consideration of getting away with using the name of God, without Yahweh knowing.
 3. The thoughts and the words have behind them a motive, for using the name of God in vain.
 - a. For pretense.
 - b. For popularity.
 - c. For fame.

- d. For deceit.
- e. For enrichment.
 - * Jesus said, “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.” Matt. 5:33-35
4. Remember what we stated about the two tables of the Commandments.
 - a. The first table deals with man’s relation to God, the vertical axis.
 - 1) The first two deal with **thoughts**.
 - 2) The third with **words**.
 - 3) The fourth with **deeds**.
 - b. The second table deals with man’s relation to man, the horizontal plain.
 - 1) The sixth, seventh and eight with **deeds**.
 - 2) The ninth with **words**.
 - 3) The tenth with **thoughts**.

Illustration

“And the Israelite woman’s son blasphemed the **name** of the LORD and cursed; and so they brought him to Moses, held him in custody till God declared he was to be stoned to death. Whoever

blasphemed the name of the LORD was to be put to death. Lev. 24:11-16

Application

1. The Third Commandment is not to protect God but man, as all of His word, to converts us, instruct us, protect us and warn us.

* “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.” Ps. 19:7-14

2. The judgment of God will reveal the most hidden things.

* “For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear.

For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” Lk. 8:17-18

3. The judgment of God will be according to truth, deeds, without partiality, the gospel, Rom. 2:2, 6, 11, 16

4. The judgment of God on every person will be perfect justice.

* “After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” Rev. 19:1-2

5. The judge will be Jesus Christ.

* “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.” Jn. 5:24-27

The explanation for the Third Commandment is judgment for the abuse of God’s name!

III. The relation of the Third Commandment to the first two commandments.

A. The person who takes the name of Yahweh, his God in vain breaks the First Commandment also.

1. The person is denying the only God.
2. The person is rebelling against the true and living God.
3. The person is challenging God to judge him.
4. The person is declaring God does not mean what He said.
5. The person is rejecting the revelation of God, through His word, as apposed to fabrication of idols.

* “You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was **no God** formed, Nor shall there be after Me.”
Is. 43:10

B. The person who takes the name of Yahweh his God in vain, breaks the Second Commandment.

1. The person has made God a mere image by the pursuit of his goal in misusing or

abusing the name by taking His name in vain.

2. The person has bowed to whatever they are pursuing, making it his god, using God’s name as some magical formula for self.
 3. The person has declared that God is not a jealous God, who will visit in judgment.
 4. The person has mocked the mercy of God, that reveals the need of repenting and getting right with God.
- C. The person who takes the name of Yahweh his God in vain, has lost the fear of God.
1. The person has rationalized God’s word to justify his actions.
 2. The person has reasoned away the attributes of God to perfection and ignored the declared judgment by God.
 3. The person has explained away all consequences.
 4. The person has come to the place, where they manipulate the name of God or His word, which both are the revelation of God, by God, about God and for the glory of God.
 5. The person becomes a fool, acting as if there is no God or worst yet that they are greater than God.

Illustration

“Then David said to Goliath, the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the **name** of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” 1Sam. 17:45

Application

1. God honors His name above His word.

* “I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your **name** For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have **magnified Your word above all Your name.**” Ps. 138:2

2. God’s name is spoken against by many who call themselves Christians and Pastor by denying the name of Jesus as being the only way to God and heaven.

* There is a bumper sticker that reads, “If you can’t find Jesus, look for His mother”, blasphemous!

* “A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My **name**. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we **despised** Your **name**?’” Mal. 1:6

3. The Lord’s prayer is a warning against taking God’s name in vain. Matt. 6:9-13

* “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And

forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

4. The scriptures tell us the following about the name of God.

- a. We are not to profane His name. Lev. 21:6
- b. We are to know He has placed His name in Jerusalem. 2Kings. 21:4
- c. We are to bless His name. Job. 1:21
- d. We are to know His name is excellent. Ps. 8:9
- e. We are to put our trust in His name. Ps. 20:5
- f. We are to remember the name. Ps. 20:7
- g. We are pardoned for His name sake. Ps. 25:11
- h. We are to give glory to His name. Ps. 29:2
- i. We are to exalt His name together. Ps. 34:3
- j. We are to fear His name. Ps. 61:5
- k. We are to praise His name forever. Ps. 61:8
- l. We are to sing out the honor to His name. Ps. 66:2
- m. We are to know that the name of God is a strong tower. Prov. 18:10
- n. We are to know the LORD of host is His name. Jer. 10:16
- o. We are to call His name Immanuel, God with us, His name Jesus. Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:21-23

4. One day soon, Jesus will return, first for His church in the rapture, then with His church to

destroy the armies of the world and set up His Kingdom and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

* “For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My **name** shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My **name**, And a pure offering; For My **name** shall be great among the nations,” Says the LORD of hosts.” Mal. 1:11

The relation of the Third Commandment to the first two is the abuse denying the greatness of God’s name!

Conclusion

This is the Third Commandment viewed from three perspectives:

- I.** The proclamation of the Third Commandment is against the abuse of God’s name!
- II.** The explanation for the Third Commandment is judgment for the abuse of God’s name!
- III.** The relation of the Third Commandment to the first two is the abuse of denying the greatness of God’s name!