

**Watch Your Language**

Exodus 20:7  
Page 61 in Church Bible  
The Lord's Day Morning  
November 4, 2018

99. *Q. What is required in the third commandment?*

*A. We are not to blaspheme or to abuse the name of God by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths, nor to share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders. Rather, we must use the holy name of God only with fear and reverence so that we may rightly confess him, call upon him, and praise him in all our words and works.*

–Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Words matter. What we say and how we say it can create or destroy. Before the war, the divorce, or the church split, there are words. And before every peace treaty, reconciled marriage, and healed church, there are words. Likewise, before irreverence and disrespect for God exists in a family, a church, or a community, there are words; in particular the careless misuse of his name. The good news is that reverence and honor for God can be nurtured in a family, a church, and a community when God's people obey the third commandment.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: Don't use God's name to fill empty space in your sentence when God's name is not necessary to the meaning of your statement (Mt. 12:34,36,37).
2. \_\_\_\_\_: Don't call God as a witness in order to deceive others or insinuate that God would back you up in your lie (Lev. 19:11–12).
3. \_\_\_\_\_: Don't make a promise or enter into a contract you don't intend to keep. Don't break a promise or breach a contract that God has witnessed, whether you invoke his name or not (Mt. 5:33–35).
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Don't carelessly ask or demand that God damn any particular human being to hell (Ro. 12:14).
5. \_\_\_\_\_: Don't say things about God (in private conversation or formal teaching) that are not true or misquote God in any way so as to defame him (Acts 26:11).
6. \_\_\_\_\_: Don't use God's name in public worship (prayer, singing, giving, baptism, or the Lord's Supper) to give the impression you love God when you don't love God (Mt. 6:5).