

# The Ten Commandments – Week 3

## The Name

**Main Text:** Exodus 20:7

## Main Idea

God's name represents His character, nature, authority, and glory. The third commandment calls us not merely to avoid misusing God's name, but to actively honor it. As followers of Christ, we should honor God's name through reverence, praise, and sincerity.

## Introduction

When God gave the Ten Commandments to Israel, He wasn't simply handing out a list of arbitrary rules. He was establishing the foundation for a covenant relationship with His people. These commandments revealed who God is and how His people were to walk with Him.

Jesus later taught that He did not come to abolish God's law but to fulfill it—to fill it to the brim with its full meaning and application. Through Christ, we understand that righteousness is not earned by keeping rules but received by faith. Once we receive Christ's righteousness, we are then empowered to live in obedience to God.

The third commandment challenges us to consider how we speak about God and how we represent Him before others.

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God." (Exodus 20:7)

Rather than focusing only on what we should avoid, Pastor Todd asked a different question:

**How can we honor God's name?**

## Key Takeaways

### 1. Show Him Reverence

God's name is not ordinary. It represents His very nature and character. Throughout Scripture, names carried deep significance, and God's name—Yahweh—reveals Him as the eternal, self-sufficient, all-powerful God. Because His name carries such worth, we should speak of Him with reverence and awe.

To misuse God's name is to diminish or misrepresent His worth. While we cannot lessen who God actually is, we can misrepresent Him through careless words and attitudes.

Reverence means approaching God with deep respect, whether in worship, prayer, conversation, or difficult circumstances. Even when expressing frustration, grief, or confusion, we should remember who God is and speak of Him accordingly.

### **Practical Ways to Show Reverence**

- Avoid cursing or speaking evil of God.
- Do not attach God's name to vulgar or inappropriate language.
- Avoid using God's name as an expression of anger or frustration.
- Refuse to treat God's name casually or trivially.
- Carefully consider your words when speaking to or about God.

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Ecclesiastes 5:2
- Exodus 3:13-15

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. Do my words reflect a deep respect for God?
2. Have I become casual or careless in how I speak about Him?
3. How can I cultivate greater reverence in prayer and worship?
4. Are there habits in my speech that diminish the honor due God's name?

## **2. Give Him Praise**

The third commandment is not only about avoiding misuse of God's name—it is also about using His name rightly. God's name should be associated with honor, worship, gratitude, and praise.

One danger is using God's name for personal gain. Just as people sometimes "name-drop" important individuals to benefit themselves, believers can sometimes invoke God's name to gain credibility, influence, or status.

Instead of leveraging God's reputation for ourselves, we should use our words to direct attention toward His greatness. Our goal should be that God receives the glory rather than ourselves.

When we talk about what God has done, our words should magnify Him and point others toward His goodness and grace.

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 34:1-3
- Psalm 145:1-3

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. Do my conversations point others toward God's greatness?
2. Am I more concerned about God's glory or my own reputation?
3. How often do I intentionally praise God in everyday conversations?
4. What specific blessings can I thank God for this week?

## **3. Show Sincerity**

Honoring God's name involves more than our words—it also involves our lives. Scripture repeatedly warns against professing loyalty to God while living in contradiction to His ways.

The Israelites often claimed to belong to Yahweh while simultaneously pursuing idols. Their actions contradicted their profession, and Scripture says they profaned God's name through their behavior.

The same principle applies today. When we claim the name of Christ, our lives should increasingly reflect His character. This does not require perfection, but it does require sincerity. Our words and actions should align.

If we wear the name of Christ, people should see evidence of His work in us.

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Leviticus 18
- Isaiah 48:1-2
- Colossians 3:17

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. Does my daily life support the faith I profess?
2. Are there areas where my actions contradict my words?
3. When I fail, am I quick to repent and seek God's forgiveness?
4. What would others learn about Christ by observing my life?

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God places such importance on His name?
2. How does Jesus help us better understand the purpose of the Ten Commandments?
3. What are some common ways people misuse God's name today?
4. Why is reverence for God becoming increasingly rare in our culture?
5. How can believers intentionally give God praise throughout the week?
6. What is the difference between honoring God's name and using God's name for personal benefit?
7. Why is sincerity such an important part of Christian witness?
8. How do our actions either honor or dishonor God's name before others?

## Application

This week, pay special attention to your words.

Before speaking about God, pause and ask:

- Does this reflect reverence?
- Does this bring God praise?
- Does this align with the life I claim to live?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help your speech and conduct consistently honor the name of Christ.

## Weekly Challenge

Read **Colossians 3:17** each day this week:

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Choose one conversation each day where you intentionally point others toward God's goodness and faithfulness.

## Memory Verse

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17

## **Bottom Line**

**We honor God's name when our words reflect reverence, our conversations give Him praise, and our lives demonstrate sincere devotion to Christ.**