

The Third Commandment (No Misuse of God's Name)

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (**Ex 20:7**)

Vain - "Empty; worthless; having no substance, value or importance. Fruitless. False. *To take the name of God in vain*, to use the name of God with levity or profaneness."
(Webster's Dictionary 1828)

God's Name Represents His Character

God's name represents His character. (**Ex 3:13,14** compare **Heb 13:8** and **Jn 14:6**, **Ex 23:20,21** compare **1Co 10:1-4**, **Ex 34:5-7**, **Nu 6:27**, **2Ch 6:5-9**, **Isa 56:5**, **Eze 39:7**, **Da 9:19**, **Jn 12:28**, **Jn 17:6,26**, **Rev 3:12**, **Rev 14:1**, **Rev 22:3,4**)

Worldly "Christians" Misuse God's Name

Those who take the name "Christian", but who do not possess or reflect the holy character of Christ are misusing God's name. (**Isa 43:7**, **Mt 5:16**, **Col 1:27,28**, **2Ti 2:19**, **Jas 4:4**, **1Jn 2:6**)

Jesus would rather people claim no association with Him (a "cold" relationship), rather than claiming to be Christians while manifesting a compromised ("lukewarm") lifestyle that repels others away from Himself and His church. (**Rev 3:15,16**)

Because of this widespread misuse of God's name, many seekers reject Christ and Christianity because they see little or no difference between supposed Christians and the rest of the world. (**Ro 2:21-24**, **Ro 14:12,13**)

Name Includes Family Lineage

Name includes family lineage. (**Nu 1:18**, **Mt 1:1**, **Lk 3:23-38** note "son of God" in verse 38) Therefore, taking God's name implies a spiritual parent/child relationship wherein we are to reflect the character of our Father. (**Mt 5:9**, **Jn 1:12,13**, **Ro 8:14-19**, **Gal 3:26**, **Php 2:15**, **1Jn 3:8-10**)

Jesus, Who is God the Son, and who perfectly reflects the character of God the Father, is to be our example. (**Jn 14:6-9**, **Jn 6:38**, **Jn 8:29**, **1Jn 2:6**, **Ro 8:29**, **Mt 12:50**)

Illegitimate "Christians" Misuse God's Name

Those who take the name "Christian", but who have not been spiritually adopted are misusing God's name. (**Jn 1:12,13**, **Jn 3:3-8**, **Ro 8:5-16**, **Gal 4:4-7**, **Eph 1:3-5**)

As children of God, Christians are supposed to be about their Father's business. (**Lk 2:49**)

Fruitless "Christians" Take God's Name in Vain

Fruitless "Christians" take God's name in vain. (**Mt 7:15-23**, **Mt 25:14-30**, **Lk 8:5-15**, **Jn 15:5-8**, **Gal 5:22-25**)

Those who use God's Name as a Common Interjection Misuse His Name

Those who use God's name as a common interjection misuse His name. An example is the frivolous interjection of "Jesus Christ" in a purely secular statement.

Those who Combine God's Name with Profanity Misuse His Name

Those who combine God's name with profanity misuse His name. (**Lev 19:12**, **Lev 22:32**) As a general truth, it is a grave sin to combine the holy and the profane. (**Da 5:1-6,22-30**, **2Co 6:14-18**)

The Punishment for Disobedience is Death

The punishment for disobedience is death. (**Lev 24:10-16, Ro 6:23, Jas 2:10**)
As our substitute, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. (**Isa 53:6, Jn 1:29, Eph 5:2, Heb 7:27, Heb 10:5-10**)

The 3rd Commandment Proclaims the Holiness of God

The 3rd commandment proclaims the holiness of God. (**Ps 22:3, Ps 33:21, Ps 99:5, Ps 103:1, Ps 111:9, Rev 15:4**)

The 3rd Commandment Proclaims the Expected Holiness of God's People

The 3rd commandment proclaims the expected holiness of God's people. (**Lev 11:45, Lev 20:26, Dt 28:9, Mt 5:48, 1Pe 1:15,16, 1Pe 2:9, 2Pe 3:11**)

The 3rd Commandment Proclaims the Church's Responsibility to Labor for Souls

The 3rd commandment proclaims the church's responsibility to labor for souls. (**Mt 9:37,38, Mt 24:14, Mt 28:19,20, Ro 10:13-15**)

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