

Family Values #3
Week 1 – God First **Exodus 20:3**
Week 2 – God Only **Exodus 20:4**

Today, we'll look at the third commandment.

You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

Exodus 20:7

Names are important.

A. Names represent REPUTATION.

A person's name automatically brings to mind the person's reputation.

B. Names represent CHARACTER.

Remember how God changed a name because there was a change in character!

Abram/Abraham, Jacob/Israel, and Simon/Peter, the rock!

C. Names represent AUTHORITY.

When a policeman shouts, "Stop in the name of the Law!", you better stop!

When you misuse God's Name,

you're defaming His reputation, disrespecting His character, and disregarding His authority.

God's name is misused, when it is used to:

1. INSULT or express IRRITATION.

Why do people curse anyway?

A lot of it has to do with a lack of emotional control.

It takes emotional maturity to discipline your speech, especially when you're angry.

By controlling your mouth, you are demonstrating maturity and self-control.

2. INDULGE.

Indulgence is when we excuse ourselves and we blame God.

"I didn't feel led to go ask for forgiveness."

God does speak and He does guide us if we are open to Him!

3. INTIMIDATE.

"God told me what you should do."

"God told me what's wrong with you."

4. IMPRESS.

Insecure believers often feel like the more they use the Name Jesus in a sentence the more spiritual they must be.

"Bless God, Hallelujah, Glory to God, thank you Jesus..."

God is not impressed by words; He is impressed by a lifestyle.

Be careful about trying to turn God's Name into a cliché. **Titus 1:15, 16**

We are not taking God's Name seriously when we claim to be committed to Him, but we don't back up our words with our lifestyle.

God's Name is misused when it is used as an:

5. IMPULSE.

We use God's name lightly and irreverently when we use it as an expression of fear, anger, joy, amazement, or surprise?

There is an expression that is so common today, few people give it much thought.

"Oh, my God!"

Instead of saying, Wow!, **we use God's Name as an exclamation point.**

Can we say honestly that that kind of language is God-honoring?

Exodus 20:7

God wants us to know that this is serious business.

When you misuse or disrespect God's name, you are offending the Creator of the Universe.