

Never Abuse My Name

Exodus 20:7

Series: God's Boundaries For Abundant Living - Part 3

Introduction

A Study in Contrasts - "Then" . . . and "Now"

The Command:

*"You shall not **misuse** (lit. "take up...in vain") the **name** of the LORD your God..."*

The Consequences:

*"...for the LORD will not leave him unpunished (hold him guiltless) who **misuses** (takes in vain) His **name**."*

Exodus 20:7

I. What's In A Name Anyway?

- Name = Synonymous with one's **character, reputation, and authority**.
- God's name reveals His essence.
- Summary = We are to take God _____ !
- Axiom = Our use of God's name in **word**, in **thought**, or **deed** will reflect our view of God and relationship to Him.

II. In What Ways Do We Use God's Name in Vain?

- In taking oaths that we do not keep = _____.

Do not make a promise in my name if you do not intend to keep it; that brings disgrace on my name. I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:12

- In our attempts to use God for personal gain = _____.

These people worship me with their lips...but their hearts are far from me.

Isaiah 29:13

- In our everyday irreverent conversation = _____.

"And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. "For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."

Matthew 12:36-37

- Level I Profanity = **Casualness** with God's Name
- Level II Profanity = **Contempt** for God's Name
- Level III Profanity = **Cursing** God's Name

*"...I the Lord will punish **anyone** who misuses my name!"*

Exodus 20:7b

- **Why Do Otherwise Intelligent People Profane God’s Name?**
 - The Spiritually Uninformed
 - The Spiritually Undisciplined
 - The Spiritually Dead

Discussion Questions

1. Who is the most precious and important human being in your life? What comes to your mind when you say their name?
2. How would you feel about others dragging “the name” you wrote above through the mud? Untrue statements, unfair criticism, being the butt of coarse jesting?
3. Why does God put such a high priority on the use of His name? What’s behind how we talk, think and act with regard to God’s Name?
4. Where do you need to “shore up” how you use God’s name? How will this likely impact your relationship with Him?