

The Third Commandment – Honor God's Name

September 16, 2018

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 20:7

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1st: Worship God Alone – the Only True God

2nd: Worship the Right God the Right way... not with idols

The Third Commandment: Don't misuse God's Name

- Names are given to us - naming is an act of authority
- God declares and reveals His own name to us - Ex 3:14-15

The Third Commandment Applied:

The Negative

- Don't take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- literally: You shall not live up the name of the Lord your God for nothingness
- God doesn't forbid the use of His name, only the MISUSE of His name
- Fisher: misuse=blasphemy, perjury, sinful cursings, oaths or vows
- In our culture: view God's name like a trademarked name... to honor it.
- God cares deeply about His name: Lev 24:10-16 consequences

The Positive

- We can learn from the opposite of what is commanded
- Hallow God's Name - Mt 6:9
- Learn to properly use God's Name: Psalm 8:1; 29:2; 72:19; 103:1, etc.
- Honoring God's Name & spreading His Gospel Message are directly related!

Making God's Name Great & Glorious:

- Jesus - John 17:21-22 our mission: so that the world may believe!
- When Jesus' name is lifted up & exalted: Act 4:12; Ro 10:13; 1 Jn 5:13
- God redeems us into His Church so we're a community on mission for His glory
- Church is to be a MERCY SHIP, not a CRUISE SHIP!
 - not about our comfort & care 1st, but about God's mission
- We are to remind one-another daily of the Gospel and pray for the Gospel to be effective in our lives so that the world will see Christ in us!
- We are on mission: Remember the Gospel empowers us to serve Christ:
 - Know, believe and act upon the Gospel each day
 - Take your thoughts captive regularly - 2 Cor 10:4-5; Help others...
 - Immerse yourself in the nurture of our Gospel saturated community
 - Speak the Gospel regularly to one another so others will see it

Think & Discuss:

- How does the fact that God reveals His name to us, we don't name Him impact you?**
- Review the Larger Catechism on the 3rd command. What is easiest for you to keep? What is hardest for you? Why?** Modern English below

- Does viewing God's Name like a protected trademark help you? How? Can this help you use His name properly?**
- How do the Psalms help us properly use & hallow God's name?**
- How would you explain that honoring God's name and spreading His Gospel message are the same?** Jn 17:21-22; Phil 2:9-11; Eph 1:21
- How should our church be like a Gospel community? Is that community to be inward or outward focused? Cruise Ship (self-focused) or Mercy Ship (mission focused). How can we improve and better focus on our mission for Christ?**
- How does the Gospel empower us to serve Christ each day?**

Q. 112. What does the third commandment require?

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use in our thoughts,¹ meditations,² words,³ and writings,⁴ of God's name, titles, qualities,⁵ regulations,⁶ word,⁷ sacraments,⁸ prayer,⁹ oaths,¹⁰ vows,¹¹ casting lots,¹² his works,¹³ and anything else by which he makes himself known. This treatment will be reflected in holy affirmations of our faith¹⁴ and conduct that matches our affirmations,¹⁵ to the glory of God¹⁶ and the good of ourselves¹⁷ and others.¹⁸

¹ Mal 3:16; ² Ps 8; ³ Col 3:17, Ps 105:2,5; ⁴ Ps 102:18; ⁵ Mt 6:9, Dt 28:58, Ps 29:2, 68:4, Rv 15:3-4; ⁶ Mal 1:14, Eccl 5:1; ⁷ Ps 138:2; ⁸ 1 Cor 11:24-25, 28-29; ⁹ 1 Tm 2:8; ¹⁰ Jer 4:2; ¹¹ Eccl 5:2,4-6, Ps 76:11; ¹² Acts 1:24,26; ¹³ Jb 36:24, Ps 107:21-22; ¹⁴ 1 Pt 3:15, Mt 4:5; ¹⁵ Phil 1:27; ¹⁶ 1 Cor 10:31; 17. Jer 32:39; ¹⁸ 1 Pt 2:12.

Q. 113. What particular sins does the third commandment forbid?

A. The third commandment forbids: not using God's name as is required;¹ the abuse of it through ignorance,² empty³ or unholy treatment, irreverence,⁴ superstition,⁵ or any wicked reference to his titles, qualities,⁶ regulations,⁷ or works;⁸ blasphemy;⁹ perjury;¹⁰ all sinful cursing,¹¹ oaths,¹² vows,¹³ and casting lots;¹⁴ violating our oaths and vows, if lawful,¹⁵ and keeping them, if aimed at unlawful things;¹⁶ complaining and quarreling about¹⁷ or misapplication of God's decrees¹⁸ and acts of providence¹⁹ as well as unwarranted curiosity about them;²⁰ misinterpreting²¹ or misapplying²² God's word or perverting all or part of its meaning in any way;²³ blasphemous mockery of his word,²⁴ pointless arguing, meaningless talk, or supporting false doctrines;²⁵ abusing God's name, his creatures, or anything included under his name in the practice of magic²⁶ or to promote sinful desires and activities;²⁷ maligning,²⁸ scorning,²⁹ reviling,³⁰ or opposing in any way God's truth, grace, and actions;³¹ pretending to be religious or using religion for evil purposes;³² being ashamed of God's name³³ or a shame to it by stubbornly refusing to obey him³⁴ and by living unwisely,³⁵ unfruitfully,³⁶ or in such a way as to offend him³⁷ or backslide away from him.³⁸

¹ Mal 2:2; ² Acts 17:23; ³ Prv 30:9; ⁴ Mal 1:6-7, 12, 3:14; ⁵ 1 Sm 4:3-5, Jer 7:4, 9-10, 14:31, Col 2:20-22; ⁶ 2 Kgs 18:30,35, Ex 5:2, Ps 139:20; ⁷ Ps 50:16-17; ⁸ Is 5:12; ⁹ 2 Kgs 19:22, Lv 24:11; ¹⁰ Zec 5:4, 8:17; ¹¹ 1 Sm 17:43, 2 Sm 16:5, Rom 12:14; ¹² Jer 5:7, 23:10; ¹³ Dt 23:18, Acts 23:12,14; ¹⁴ Est 3:7, 9:24, Ps 22:18; ¹⁵ Ps 24:4, Ez 17:16, 18-19; ¹⁶ Mk 6:26, 1 Sm 25:22, 32-34; ¹⁷ Rom 9:14, 19-20; ¹⁸ Rom 3:5,7, 6:1; ¹⁹ Eccl 8:11, 9:3, Ps 39, 73:12-13; ²⁰ Dt 29:29; ²¹ Mt 5:21 to the end; ²² Ez 13:22; ²³ 2 Pt 3:16, Mt 22:23-32; ²⁴ Is 22:13, Jer 23:34,36,38, Eph 5:4; ²⁵ 1 Tm 1:4, 6-7, 6:4-5,20, 2 Tm 2:14, Ti 3:9; ²⁶ Dt 18: 10-14, Acts 19:13; ²⁷ 2 Tm 4:3-4, Rom 13:13-14, 1 Kgs 21:9-10, Jude 4; ²⁸ Acts 13:45, 1 Jn 3:12; ²⁹ Ps 1:1, 2 Pt 3:3; ³⁰ 1 Pt 4:3; ³¹ Acts 13:45-46,50, Acts 4:18, 19:9, 1 Thes 2:16, Heb 10:29; ³² 2 Tm 3:5, Mt 23:14, 6:1-3,5, 16; ³³ Mk 8:38; ³⁴ Ps 73:14-15; ³⁵ 1 Cor 6:5-6, Eph 5:15-17; ³⁶ Is 5:4, 2 Pt 1:8-9; ³⁷ Rom 2:23-24; ³⁸ Gal 3:1,3, Heb 6:6.