

“The Powerful Name of Our God”
The Ten Commandments—Part 3
Exodus 20:7

Review:

The First Commandment—Keep the True God at the center of your life.

“You shall have no other gods before me.” *Exodus 20:3*

Summary: God at the center is a daily commitment! It is a daily walk in the Spirit. For when we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh, but joy will fill our lives as we walk in a manner pleasing to our God. His priorities become our focus and our delight. In the process we find true fulfillment and we do the good God planned in advance for us to do.

The Second Commandment—Worship the True God in the right way.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.”
Exodus 20:4-6

Summary: No image we can make of God will ever reflect the character of God. Who can capture the majesty, the omniscience, the power, the holiness, or the passion in love or judgment of our God? The Second Commandment is a call to worship God for all that He is and to have a Biblical Theology of the greatness of our God.

God’s Name is a Powerful Name

The Third Commandment—The Name of God is a powerful name—use it wisely.

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.” *Exodus 20:7*

Question: Have you noticed that several of the 10 Commandments come with warnings?

1. The Power of God’s Name

Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good." 1 Kings 18:22-24

But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy." 2 Kings 5:11

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

2. How do we break the Third Commandment?

- We misuse God's name when we carelessly make a promise or take an oath.
- We misuse God's name when we use it for our own gain.
- We misuse God's name by using it to build our own fame.
- We misuse God's name when we use it as a swear word.
- We misuse God's name when we think of the 3rd Commandment only as a negative.

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. Matthew 12:36

Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Psalm 103:1

3. How do we honor God's Name?

- We honor God's name when we call upon Him in prayer.

He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name...'" Luke 11:2

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:13-14

- We honor God's name when we trust in Him.

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:10

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. Psalm 20:7

But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his

unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Psalm 33:18-22

- We honor God's name when we submit to the will of Jesus and profess His name before others.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Summary: When you trust in God, who cares for you and gives you what you need to face any challenge, you are keeping the spirit of the Third Commandment.