

The Third Commandment

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,
for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”

– Exodus 20:7 (English Standard Version)

What’s in a name?

- Yahweh means The One Who Is Ever Present
- To take God’s name in vain means to consider the name empty or meaningless; to deny or doubt his presence and power
- Only enemies of God take his name in vain
They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain! Psalm 139:20 (ESV)
- The common name of God, Elohim (found about 2500 times in the Old Testament), is plural

To obey the third command, we need to understand the “fear of the Lord”

- Fearing the Lord brings wisdom and understanding.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! – Psalm 111:10 (ESV)
- When we hate evil, then we have the fear of the Lord.
The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. – Proverbs 8:13 (ESV)
- The fear of the Lord brings riches and honor and life as a reward.
The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life – Proverbs 22:4 (ESV)

What does Jesus have to say about the fear of the Lord?

- Do not fear men or the devil. Their wrath is not everlasting
Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. – Matthew 10:28 (NIV)
- Even Jesus had the fear of the Lord.
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear... – Isaiah 11:2-3 (ESV)

Then what about the name of Jesus?

- Think about the names of Jesus from the prophet Isaiah:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, Great Shepherd
- God has made **provision** for us through the name of Jesus.
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. – Romans 10:13 (ESV)
...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. – Romans 10:9-10 (ESV)
Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. – Acts 4:12
- God the Father (Yahweh) has bestowed the highest name on his son Jesus because he humbled himself and became obedient to the Father's calling.
Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so 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 (ESV)

A Right Response Brings a Rich Reward

- We should humble ourselves and fear the name of the Lord
- If we do this, we will receive wisdom and knowledge from the Lord
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. – James 4:10

My Decision

When I use the name of God, I will use it with honor and respect, out of love and thanksgiving for what it means to me.

The Big Ten Challenge

I will commit to convene my most important small group (my family) once a week to discuss each week's commandment. We will discuss the commandment questions with honesty and truthfulness and close our time by praying for each other.

Small Group Discussion Questions



1. What comes to mind when you hear the name of God? Describe some of the thoughts or images that pop into your mind.
2. What do you think it means to fear God? What can you find in the Bible about the fear of God?
3. Can you think of any ways that you take God for granted? What are they?
4. In your life specifically, how has God provided for you through his Son, Jesus?
5. How can we pray for you tonight?