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Section: Commands (Law)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q47. Why does God give the third commandment: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God?**

So we will respect and honorGod as the worthy and holy One.

**Introduction**

**Exodus 20:7** “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.”

**Leviticus 24:16** “Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.”

**What is forbidden in the third commandment?**

**Exodus 20:7** “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.”

* We are forbidden from taking the name of God in a disrespectful or worthless or useless manner.
* The third commandment also forbids empty or false oaths.

**Leviticus 19:12** “You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.”

* The third commandment also prohibits false claims of prophesy.

**Deuteronomy 18:20** “But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die”.

* It was also a violation of the third commandment to sacrifice children to the false god Molech.

**Leviticus 18:21 “**You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.”

* It was also a violation of the third commandment for the priests of Israel to participate in lawful sacrifices when unclean.

**Leviticus 22:1-3** And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and his sons so that they abstain from the holy things of the people of Israel, which they dedicate to me, so that they do not profane my holy name: I am the LORD. Say to them, ‘If any one of all your offspring throughout your generations approaches the holy things that the people of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he has an uncleanness, that person shall be cut off from my presence: I am the LORD.’”

We must see that to dishonor the Lord’s Name in any way shape or form is a violation of this commandment.

**Why is it forbidden?**

**Exodus 3:13-15** Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

God’s name is directly related to His character. When we misrepresent God’s name, we misrepresent His character. When we violate this commandment, we are blaspheming and slandering God.

Throughout Scripture, the name of the Lord is exalted in the highest way possible:

* **Psalm 8:1** O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
* **Psalm 29:2** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.
* **Acts 4:12** “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
* **Romans 10:13** For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
* **Philippians 2:10-11** 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.

**How can we obey this commandment?**

**Kevin DeYoung:** “There are three points: we violate the third commandment when we take up the name of God in service of (1) what is false, (2) what is frivolous, or (3) what is phony.”

* Violation 1: God’s name in service of what is false.
* Violation 2: God’s name in service of what is frivolous.

**Psalm 38:21** Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me!

**Psalm 40:8** I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.

**Matthew 6:7** “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.”

* Violation 3: God’s name in service of that which is phony.

**Final Notes**

**Colossians 3:17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Romans 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”