

## **Making Life Make Sense (Transformed by the 10 Commandments)**

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. *1John 5:2*

### **Session 3:**

“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*

### **The Commandment of Reverence**

God asks us to respect his holy name and this commandment is about respect. It addresses the way we communicate our feelings about God to others as well as to him. When you have this kind of respect, it increases the reverence you should have for God. We are expected to always honor who and what he is. We are never to use God’s name in a flippant or degrading way, which ends in disrespect. God is never to be devalued always exalted.

#### **Put some respect on the name**

Let us for a moment, consider some ways we should respect God’s name.

- For one, we are created in his image and likeness and we are His only creation that is capable of demonstrating many of God’s characteristics.
- Those who receive the Spirit of God are members of the church of God and his divine body.
- Everything important to us we must consider a gift of God, we are possessors of nothing and stewards of everything we have.

*Scripture: (Acts 17:28)*

#### **Engage:**

**Can you name some other ways we disrespect the name of God?**

#### **Engage:**

**Can you name some ways we can bring glory to the name of God?**

#### **A Culture of Dishonor**

One of the most thoughtless ways we use God’s name in vain is to say “Oh my God.” For some reason it doesn’t seem like much and we all have said it at one time or other, however, this is both disrespectful and vain. This is not addressing God and if it’s not then who are we addressing?

- We are never to carry God’s name in a worthless manner, this results in how people look at you as a Christian and ultimately your Lord.  
How we live not only reflects us but the God we claim to serve and love.
- There is some truth to familiarity breeding contempt, we tend to become too familiar with God and the things of God. This is called being Church-wise.

1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. <sup>2</sup>Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. <sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. *Psalms 145:1-3*

#### **Engage:**

**When you look at this Psalm of David what does it cause you to think in terms of reverence for God?**

**Engage:**

**What are some ways of engaging this commandment of reverence on a daily basis?**

**The Profane**

Probably the most obvious way of breaking the Third Commandment is through the use of profanity using God's name in vulgar language or irreverent slang. We live in a culture where most care only about themselves and the use of language has followed that course of disrespect.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. **James 3:9**

- Defiling the name of God or that of his son Jesus is nearly universal.
- Profanity is not the only way we can abuse God's name, anyone who carelessly uses the name of God or that of his son Jesus in everyday speech don't know God as they should.
- Today in our culture, out of the same mouth comes both blessing and cursing while all the time insisting on identifying with Christ.

*Scripture: (James 3:10)*

**Engage:**

**How would you explain to someone you may know who uses foul language even at times, God's name in vain, while identifying as a Christian?**

**Engage:**

***Exodus 20:7 states this; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain, do you think God still does hold us guiltless if so how?***

**Engage:**

**When the believer uses profane language there is something between the conscience and Holy Spirit that occurs - what do you think happens?**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ***Ephesians 4:29***

**How do we Honor God**

While there are many ways of bring honor to God, one of the vital ways is with our tongue. The tongue has potential of life and death in it. The scriptures speak of it as a small member but capable of disastrous results (***James 3:6***). Yet it is the one member of the body that can bring great blessing to God.

- It is not enough to just avoid misusing God's name, he wants us to bless his name.
- We should acknowledge his greatness, we should tell him how good he is and how his mercy is so appreciated.
- We should pray asking for the power of his Holy Spirit to overwhelm us and enable us to wholeheartedly obey and serve him

With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD; I will praise him in the midst of the throng. ***Psalms 109:30***

**Engage:**

**State some ways a person can tame their tongue?**