

**Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17 and Ezek.36:16-25

**Singing:** 306:1-4 – 141:1-2 – 177:1-3 – 372:1-2 – 435:1, 4, 9

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**Principle 3:** *The Laws of God are much wider and deeper than seen at face-value: the Law is spiritual (Rom. 7:14) and exceeding broad (Ps. 119:96)*

**HONOR MY NAME**

I. Why so important? II. What is *use in vain*?

III. How use His Name in vain or honorably?

**I. WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO USE GOD'S NAME HONORABLY?**

A. Because it reflects how we recognize God's glory and majesty

B. Because dishonoring His Name has far-reaching consequences

1. His Name differs substantially from our name

2. The misuse of His Name is *offending and provoking God personally*

a. what happens when we do this with each other as humans?

b. the misuse of God's Name is *self-destructive*

● compare Romans 1:18ff – Jer. 23:7

**II. WHAT IS MEANT WITH USING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN?**

A. The Hebrew meaning of *vain* is opposite of *reverence*

1. to use His Name in vain is *to use superficial – thoughtless – insincere*

a. familiarity breeds contempt when something is *taken out of the sacred context in which it is to be used*

b. a casual attitude towards God's Name *reveals more @ us than any of our creeds we confess!*

2. To guard us against vain use of His Name, Jesus taught Lord's prayer

**III. How do we use His Name in vain or honorably?**

A. *Taking* His name in vain is *when we refer to Him dishonorably*

1. any 'casual' use of His Name, attributes, titles or addresses

2. by using His Name carelessly in our 'prayers'

a. prayer is one of the most *solemn acts of worship*

b. Casualness in *speech and posture* may be due to *ignorance* but still shows great disrespect

B. Taking His Name in vain is when *we curse His Name*

C. Taking His Name in vain is when we *swear false oaths or vows*

1. God doesn't forbid the use of oaths in legal court settings  
a. in an oath we honor God as having *knowledge and power*

2. Vows are *solemn promises to God or people by which we bind ourselves to do something* (Note the caution of Eccl. 5:1-6)

D. Taking His Name is *when we blaspheme God's Spirit*

1. This sin is the *consciously calling evident work of God the devil's*

E. Taking His Name in vain is *not acting honorably as a Christian*

1. Hebrew *take* literally is *to bear – carry*

2. Bearing/carrying His Name is *like soldiers bearing uniform*

a. God reproached Israel for ***profaning His Name***

● Ezek. 36:20 ... *by living ungodly in general*

● Amos 2:7 ... *by sexual sins*

● Rom. 2:21-23 ... *by hypocrisy*

b. 'breadth' of sinning against the 3<sup>rd</sup> is far beyond *words*

● Matt. 5:17 (let your light so shine) is honoring 3<sup>rd</sup>

● Q. 99 Cat: ...*that we use the holy name of God so ... that He may be rightly confessed ... and be glorified in all our words and works.*

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen

Jude 24-25