

CCC TAKING GOD SERIOUSLY P3

Ten Values That Build Strong Families - Part 3

Exodus 20:7

We're in part three today in the series we called, Ten Values that Build Strong Families, values that builds strong character in a person. And what are these 10 values... we call them the, Ten Commandments and we're going to look at the third commandment today, The third Commandment God gave us... God says, "*You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.*" Exodus 20:7. Basically what God is saying, "Take My name seriously it's not something to misused, it's not something to take lightly" and why is God so sensitive about His name, because your name represents your reputation, your character and your authority. It represents your reputation. You've heard people say, "He's really making a name for himself." When somebody has a

good reputation they say "He's got a good name." When he's got a bad reputation, They say, "He's got a bad name." When I say a name you automatically think of his reputation. Hitler, Martin Luther King, Elvis.

A name represents your character. What you are cannot be separated from what your name is...

In the Bible they would often name children after certain character qualities like Honest, Justice ... so that it would represent their character. Many times in the Bible when somebody changed their character, their life was changed; God gave them a new name. Abram became Abraham, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter. God would change their names because the new name He gave would know represents your character.

Your name represents authority. When a police stops you he doesn't say, "Stop in the name of Bugs Bunny!" No, he

says "Stop in the name of the law." Why? Because there is authority behind that name. If you received a call from me while you were eating dinner you might say tell Bill to call back later. But if his name were Billy Graham you would probably take the call right there. Names have a representation of authority. God says when you misuse My name it's no little deal. It's a big deal because you're defaming My reputation, My character and My authority and you are using it flippantly. When we think about misusing God's name we usually think about swearing. But there are many other ways you can misuse God's name besides just swearing.

1. YOU CAN USE GOD'S NAME TO INSULT.

This is when you use profanity or swearing to express irritation. America is the most foul-mouthed nation in the world and becoming more so every day. Today a movie

will not sell if it doesn't have any cussing in it. If it has a G rating nobody wants to go see it and they intentionally add profanity to movies in order to get an "R" because they want it to be a hit. Books and magazines and TV are filled with profanity. Even songs now have labels on them warning of explicit sexual language, etc. Another way you to misuse God's name is:

2. THEY USE GOD'S NAME TO INDULGE

We excuse ourselves and we blame God or we put it on God... For example people say, "I didn't clean the living room because God didn't want me to clean up the living room today." Or "I didn't feel led to get out of bed." Now these are absurd examples but the point I am trying to make is God gets blamed for so much. "God doesn't want me to honor my commitment." "God doesn't want me to do a good job at my work because the way my employer treats

me. Or we say, "I know I promised one thing but God has told me something else now" and we use God as a cover for yourself and you indulge yourself to get your way. A third way we misuse God's name is

3. USING GOD'S NAME IMPULSIVELY

This is one many of us fall into as a trap. When you use God's name as a convenient expression of fear or anger or joy or amazement or surprise. "I just caught a 10-pound fish! My God!" ... "Suzy's pregnant! O, my Lord!" ... "I just split my pants, My God!" You're reducing God to a level of a Wow! or a Far out! Don't make God an exclamation point. God says when you use my name, you take it seriously. Don't use it flippantly. It's just as flippant to say Heaven, yes! as it is to say Hell, no! They are both wrong. They are taking spiritual truth and flippantly using them

without a thought. Using them impulsively. Don't use God just as a filler.

Impulsive means without thinking. Did you know you can even worship impulsively? You can take the Lord's name in vain while you worship. You can misuse God's name in church. Have you ever sung a song about Jesus Christ and you didn't think about the words, your mind was a million miles away? Your heart's not there. You're just doing the motions. Half-hearted. Routine.

God says "*These people worship me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.*" And he says, "When you pray don't use a lot of meaningless words..."

What point is today's message trying to make here is what I am trying to say to you... I want you to get this point of what I am saying here. Here are the ten most

important things in life, and number three on the list of ten God says is "Don't misuse My name." See we're not talking about some minor issue here. In the OT Leviticus 24 says *that if a person was caught taking God's name in vain he was to be executed, stoned.* It was a capital offense. How many of us would be alive way back then. Don't kid yourself here. God says this is serious business. "I will not tolerate my name being misused." When you cuss or misuse God's name you are offending the Creator of the universe and may I respectfully suggest that you try and find someone else to offend... somebody else besides the creator of the universe. Why don't you say, "Oh, Buddha" instead. Why, because there is power in the name of Jesus. You can use any other name but when you say Jesus all of a sudden everybody gets nervous. You will not get away with it. God says, "Don't mess with My name. It represents

My reputation, My character, My authority." When you laugh at somebody who's misusing the Lord's name, using it in a joke... you're partaking in their sins. God says treat it with awe and respect. The fact is most of us need to bow our heads right now probably and apologize to God. Saying God I didn't realize how serious it is. But I will from this day understand. Please forgive me of that sin...

II. HOW CAN I USE GOD'S NAME CORRECTLY?

God's word, the Bible, promises blessing when you use His name correctly. I challenge you to do a study. There are literally hundreds of verses in the Bible that talk about the name of God. And there are promises galore that says *"If you honor and reverence My name I will bless you with success, with prosperity, with health, with peace of mind, with good relationships"* and on and on. Incredible

blessings for the person who honors God's name. God takes this very seriously.

1. REVERENCE GOD'S NAME CONTINUALLY

Treat it all the time with the utmost respect. Use it carefully. Use it lovingly. Use it as an act of worship. Don't just let it slip out flippantly. When you say "God", mean it in your heart. Listen to what God's word, the Bible says, Ps. 29:2 "*Give to the Lord the glory due His name.*" Honor God's name. That is why my wife and I don't go see R movies much. I respect the name of God too much. It's not the sex scenes and stuff (those bother me too) but really the greater offence is the taking of God's name. This is my Lord who paid the price for me that I couldn't pay myself and you couldn't pay it either. I will not take that name lightly, I will not be part of things that do either. I'm not going to set through a movie or honestly be part of a

gathering or anything that will use my Saviors name in vain, the Creator of the Universe's name is being made fun of. You need to reverence God name continually.

Reverence involves not only protecting God's name but knowing it. Ps. 9:10 "*Those who know your name will trust in you...*" God has many names, well over 100 names of God in the Bible, each one of them reveal a different aspect of God's character -- love, justice, holiness, the things he's promised to care for. The way you get to know God is to get to know the names of God. When you get to know God's name and reverence Him on a daily basis there are enormous benefits to your life. His word says, "You God have given me the blessings you reserve for those who reverence your name."

2. REPRESENT GOD'S NAME CLEARLY

II Timothy 2:19 *"A person who calls himself a Christian should not be doing things that are wrong."* Our lifestyle can misuse the name of God. If you call yourself a believer, a follower of Christ, I only have one thing to say to you, "act like one." If you're going to call yourself a Christian don't drag Christ's name through the gutter by your lifestyle. Your walk needs to match your talk. If you're a believer you represent God.

There are two reasons why many people never come to Christ. First, they've never met a real Christian. Second, the ones they met were Christian in name only... They were those who claimed to be a Christian but there was no difference in their lifestyle and a non-Christian lifestyle. The non-Christian thinks, "If they're a Christian they're just like me. There's nothing different between us. I don't need to be a Christian because I'm just like them." If you claim

to be a believer, a Christian, and use God's name and aren't any different you're a bad advertisement for Him and trust me, God will hold us accountable for that. We represent God's name clearly. The truth is that there are people all around you that are watching and evaluating your speech and your actions and they're checking to see how you're different and how you're different in your life style. So guard your mouth, guard your actions.

3. RELY ON GOD'S NAME COMPLETELY.

TAKING GOD SERIOUSLY

Ps. 33:21 *"No wonder we are happy in the Lord. We trust His holy name."* There are 1000s of verses in the Bible that say that God has made a number of promises to honor His name. Whatever you do you should do it in the name of the Lord, trusting and relying on His name. Jesus said, "If you ask anything in My name I will do it." Why do we pray "In

Jesus' name"? Because you don't have any right to come to God on your own name. See friends, God is perfect and holy and righteous and you and I are not. Only a perfect person can come into His presence. I don't have any right on my own just to come to God and say, "God this is Bill and what I need and request is this." It is only through Christ I can. He's the bridge. And Jesus said, we're to pray in His name. It's a reminder that He is the bridge and we don't come on our own power, we come on His power and His grace. He said *"If you ask anything in My name, then I will do it."*

The bad news is this: you are going to be judged one day for every idle word you've ever said. It says that in Matthew. We will give an account for every idle word. I dislike that verse so much, more than any other verse in the Bible. I think about every idle word I've said. I will be

judged for that, so will you? But there is good news is: You can skip the judgment. How? By trusting in the name of Jesus Christ. He will forgive you in advance. Acts 4:12 *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."* The name of Jesus Christ is the way you bypass that judgement.

John 20:31 *"Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name."* Circle "life".

You can pass from death to life, from judgment to forgiveness in His name. That's what you need. We've all broken this command and it means we're all doomed unless we get a Savior and that's what Jesus is. How many of you when you were kids because you used a cuss word got your mouth washed out with soap? I had my mouth washed out many times. It doesn't work. I continued to cuss... The problem is not in the mouth but in the heart. Whatever is

inside of you is what's going to come out when the world puts on pressure. If I'm filled with anxiety and tension and turmoil and fear and anger and bitterness, when the world puts on pressure that's what is going to come out. It's like squeezing a toothpaste tube, the toothpaste inside is what's going to come out. When I'm filled with love and peace and the world puts on pressure that is what's going to come out. Swearing is simply a symptom that there is turmoil in my heart and that there is so much turmoil it can spill over real easily if enough pressures is put on. Luke 6:45 Jesus said, "*The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*"

Ultimately the only way to clean up your language is to have a change of heart and Jesus can do that. God says don't misuse My name. Use it with awe and reverence, Be serious. It's not a laughing matter when someone cusses.

You're offending the creator of the universe. Some of you are saying "I've got the habit and I have to admit I've got a bad mouth." Maybe you picked up that habit in the army or school or your home or wherever, what do you do?

The first thing you need to do is tell God you're sorry and apologize for misusing His name. Tell him you didn't realize how serious it was. And you need to ask his forgiveness. Then you commit that problem and your life to God, give Him the whole thing. "Jesus Christ, come in and give me that new heart and tongue." Begin practicing controlling what you allow in your mind. There are just some things you just don't listen to, go see, or read, because you know it's going into your mind. And you remember that He is with you at all times, you practice His presence. You don't usually take somebody's name in vain that is standing right by you. If you'd recognize and realize that

you're never without God presence you'd be a lot more
disciplined in your speech, because He hears it all. Ask
Him to help you and
He will.