



The Second Commandment

Psalm 20 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 24:46-53

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Your name can be a *complicated affair!* Your first name is also your given. Your last name is also your family name or your surname. You might also have a middle name, and some of you might have a nickname. If you would have been born in another country, your first name would be your last name and your last name would be your first name! **Your name can be a *complicated affair!***

Regardless of how confusing it can get, **your name is your identity; it is how people know you, and your name carries your reputation. That's really where the importance of your name lies: it identifies you.**

God's name is like that also -- it is how we know Him. It carries His reputation; it identifies Him. The Bible uses different names to help us learn who God is and what He is like. There are hundreds of names and titles for God in the Bible.

For example, names for God in the Bible include **Elohim** (*the all-powerful God*), **Yahweh** (*Lord*), **El Shaddai** (*Lord God Almighty*), and **Immanuel** (*God with us*). **Of course, the most significant name for us is the name JESUS, which means *Savior!***

The Second Commandment teaches us to rightly use God's name and not take it in vain. We are to keep God's name **holy** and set it apart as **special**; we are to use God's name with **respect & reverence** as He teaches us!

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice witchcraft, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

The Second Commandment is reflected in the Lord's Prayer also. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to keep His name holy.

THE FIRST PETITION of the Lord's Prayer Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be holy among us also.

How is God's name hallowed? God's name is hallowed when His Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God live holy lives according to it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven! But he who teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches dishonors God's name among us. From this preserve us, heavenly Father!

How to keep God's name holy in our lives is no mystery. The Second Commandment and the Lord's Prayer teach us how to hallow God's name in our lives.

Taking God's name in vain is sin; there is even a special word in the Bible for it: *Blasphemy*. *Blasphemy* means to insult God, to speak evil of Him. In the Second Commandment, it means taking His name lightly and in vain; in the Lord's Prayer, it means not keeping it holy and pure in your life. *Blasphemy* even sounds wicked, corrupt and evil, doesn't it? **BLASPHEMY!**

- If you curse, if your language is vulgar, if you use profanity, cusswords, and four-letter words, **then you are blasphemous, and you profane God's holy name**
- If you take frivolous oaths, if you swear to "this or that" to affirm your words, if you "cross your heart and hope to die", **then you are blasphemous, and you profane God's holy name**
- If you are involved in satanism, witchcraft, or the occult in any way; if you dabble in mysticism, astrology, New Age, or the paranormal, **then you are blasphemous, and you profane God's holy name**
- If you support or promote false teachers of God's holy Word, or you encourage false doctrines which lie and deceive with God's holy Word, **then you are blasphemous, and you profane God's holy name**

It's hard to think of yourself as a blasphemer, isn't it? But that is what you are, every time you do not hallow God's name in your life. Speaking sins are easy to fall into; and hard to get out of!

Today if your words *blaspheme* God, then repent! **Watch your language! Think about the words that you say! Set a guard on your lips! Control your tongue! Do not take God's name in vain!** If you *blaspheme* God and His holy name with your words, then repent!

WE ARE TO KEEP GOD'S NAME HOLY IN OUR LIFE AND WITH OUR WORDS!

Both the Second Commandment and the Lord's Prayer teach us to keep God's name holy and pure; and to use it correctly.

Proper use of God's name means that you will call upon it for forgiveness and salvation. **Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Elohim Yahweh El Shaddai** (Lord God Almighty) sent **Immanuel** to take your sins and their punishment upon Himself.

The Lord God Almighty gave His Son the holy name of **Jesus** – a name that means Savior. Jesus is the holy and Righteous One, and He takes your unholy words to a cross, and He pronounces you righteous: you are declared forgiven and considered holy! **Because of the name of Jesus, and everything He did for you in His death and resurrection, you are cleansed from your sin, guilt and death!** This is pure Gospel --- 100% Good News – for us *blasphemers!*

Even your words have been redeemed; your *blasphemous* and *profane* words have been forgiven. God gives you new words to speak, words of righteousness, grace, peace, and encouragement; **God gives you His very own name to speak with your very own lips!**

Your words can either **reflect your faith** in a holy, Saving God; or your words will *blaspheme* the One True and Only God. **The Second Commandment teaches you to keep God's name holy in your life and with your words!**

You keep God's name holy in your life when you use it in God pleasing ways.

- You hallow God's name when you **pray** --- when you take advantage of the access you have to God the Father in Heaven to pray for yourself and for others.
- You hallow God's name when you **thank and praise** Him for Who He is and what He has done for you
- You hallow God's name when you **help, support and encourage** other people with it
- You hallow God's name when you **learn everything** the Bible teaches you about His name; as you strive to be a biblically literate and doctrinally sound disciple.
- You hallow God's name when you **confess it before men** so that they too may learn about God's holy name... especially the name of Jesus, Who is the Savior of the world, who forgives all of their sins!

You keep God's name holy in your life and in your words when you use it in God pleasing ways.

When you take a look at the Bible, it becomes clear that everything about our lives as disciples is framed by GOD'S HOLY NAME.

Not only does God's name reveal to us Who He is and what He is like; but it is the power and presence of God at work in your life!

Listen to how the Bible talks about God's name intersecting with your own life:

- ❏ You are **baptized** in God's name (Matt 28)
- ❏ Your **sins are forgiven** in the Absolution in God's name
- ❏ We receive **grace** in Jesus name (Rom 1:5)
- ❏ We **sing hymns** in God's name (Rom 15:9)
- ❏ We are **justified and sanctified** in the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11)
- ❏ We **give thanks** to God in the name of Jesus (Eph 5:20)
- ❏ We **pray** to the Father in the name of Jesus (John 14:13)
- ❏ We **confess the name of Jesus** before the World (Matt 10:32)
- ❏ We are to **stay away from false teachers** in Jesus' name (2 Thes 3:6)
- ❏ We live **holy lives** in the name of the Lord (2 Tim 1:19)
- ❏ We are **persecuted** because of the name of Jesus (1 Peter 4:14-16)
- ❏ The Lord is with us whenever **2 or 3 gather** in His name (Matt 18:20)
- ❏ We **gather for worship** in the name our God (Heb 13:15)
- ❏ **Everything we do** in daily life we do in the name of Jesus (Col. 3:17)
- ❏ You are **blessed** by the name of God (Num 6)
- ❏ You will **bow down** to the name of Jesus on the Last Day (Phil 2:10)
- ❏ **Preaching** of repentance and the forgiveness of sins occurs in the name of Jesus and is for all nations (Acts 9:27)
- ❏ **Miracles** were done in the name of Jesus (Acts 3:6)
- ❏ **Demons are cast out** in the name of Jesus (Acts 16:18)
- ❏ Everyone who **calls on** the name of the Lord will be saved (Rom 10:13)
- ❏ In Heaven, **God will write His new name** on us (Rev 3:12)

God's name is the Power and Presence of God Himself in your life. The Lord teaches us to view our lives in terms of His holy name. God's name intersects every area of your life as a baptized disciple of Jesus Christ!

God's name, whether that is the "holy Trinity" or each person of the Trinity, "Father, Son or holy Spirit", or if its one of the other names revealed in Scripture, such as *El Shaddai* or *Immanuel* or *Jesus* -- **God's name is the Power and Presence of God Himself in your life.**

Your words can either **reflect your faith** in a holy, Saving God; or your words will *blaspheme* the One True and Only God. **The Second Commandment teaches you to keep God's name holy in your life and in your words!**

AMEN!