

# What Does it Mean to Take God's Name in Vain?

(Exodus 20:7)

- Introduction:
1. The third commandment that God gave Moses on Mt. Sinai was, "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).
  2. I dare say that most people think that taking God's name in vain involves speaking God's name out of anger, pain, or frustration.
  3. While that is a part of what it means, I hope to demonstrate that the concept is much broader.

## I. It Means to Misrepresent God by Our Lifestyle

- A. Notice the command forbids "taking God's name in vain," not "speaking God's name in vain."
- B. "Take" – lift, carry, bear.
- C. Typically, when a woman marries a man, she "takes his name."
- D. As Israel was entering this relationship with God, he was command them not to take his name in vain.
- E. One employee can cause a consumer to either return or never return, because they represent the business.
- F. Likewise, as bearers of God's name, we must live lives that don't cause others to view God contemptuously.
- G. "Take the Name of Jesus with You."

## II. It Means to Invoke God's Name in Rash Vows

- A. Swearing by God name to bolster trust and confidence that you will keep your promises, then failing to do so shames the name of God.
- B. (Leviticus 19:12).
- C. (Matthew 5:33-37).

## III. It Means to Use God's Name Irreverently

- A. (Psalm 34:3; 8:1).
- B. (Matthew 6:9).
- C. God's name is to be lifted up.

- Conclusion:
1. As you have seen, taking God's name is vain is broader than speaking his name in anger.
  2. You may have good control of your language, strictly avoiding any irreverent use of God's name, but what about the way you live your life and the representation of God you display?
  3. We must not only, discipline our speech, but we must discipline our lives to refrain from taking God's name in vain.