
SERMON NOTES July 25, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Exodus 20:7 Taking God's Name in Vain Pastor Mike

I. The 3rd commandment _____ to the 10

a. The commandments are _____

b. The common simple moralistic view; _____

II. Understanding the _____ of the command

a. The significance of _____

God uses his name to _____

b. The concept of _____

i. Vain means _____

ii. How we take _____ in vain

III. The _____ of not taking God's name in vain

a. Don't speak of God in _____

b. Don't settle for a _____ with God

A hypocrite is someone who is _____

c. A true relationship with God where _____ match _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Why is the 3rd commandment important?
 - a. Prior to this morning's message, if someone asked you "how important is the 3rd commandment," what would you say? If someone asked you, "why is the 3rd commandment important," what would you say?
 - b. Did this morning's message impact your views on these questions? If so, how?
2. Most American Christians understand the commandment to not 'take the name of the LORD your God in vain' as primarily a command to not call out God's name as an epithet when frustrated or angry, and to not ask God to curse or damn something.
 - a. To what degree is keeping this command (understood in this way) only a matter of external behavior and habit, and to what degree is it a matter of the heart? Can a person keep the commandment in this way without their heart being impacted?
 - b. Through this series Pastor Mike has contended that the 10 commandments are God's foundational principles for the health and happiness of our life, and for our culture. How is the 3rd commandment a foundational principle for life?
3. One of the challenges in understanding the 3rd commandment is that we don't ever talking about taking something in vain, especially a name. Since we don't use those words in that way, so we're not sure what they mean.
 - a. What is the significance of the name of God? Did you learn anything from Pastor Mike's message about the significance of God's name?
 - b. What does it mean to take something in vain? How can we take other people's name in vain, and what does the example of this principle in human relationships teach you about this principle as it relates to God?
 - c. Did Pastor Mike's message help you understand the meaning of the 3rd commandment? How would you explain what it means, and what it is calling us to avoid?
4. One way we can break the 3rd commandment is by invoking God's name in the context of every-day conversation to give a spiritual weight to our lives and the daily decisions we make.
 - a. What are some specific ways we can do this? What are some specific ways you personally struggle with this? Why is this an easy trap to fall into?
 - b. If we really took the 3rd commandment seriously, how might our speech be different?
5. Can we break the 3rd commandment by using God's name to validate our personal opinions, or even to justify sinful behavior? If so, how can we do this?
6. Read Matthew 7:21-23 and Matthew 15:8-9. In his message, Pastor Mike taught that these passages illustrate the breaking of the 3rd commandment. How are these passage illustrations of breaking the 3rd commandment? How should you apply the teaching (and warning) of these commandments to your life?