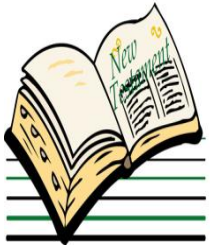


# Sermon Notes



Title: "The Third Commandment:  
Guarding the Sacred"

Text: Exodus 20:7

Theme: The name of God and everything by which He has revealed Himself must be sacred to us. We guard it in ways appropriate to our calling. We keep our speech from profaning God's sacred name. We honor our promises and commitments. We treat God's Word with care. We endeavor not to be ashamed or embarrassed to be identified as followers of Christ in this wicked generation.

## I. Exposition of Exodus 20:7

### A. Command (7a)

1. "Take" = lift up or carry; in the sense of using or employing something
2. "God's name"
3. "In vain" = nothingness or emptiness

### B. Warning (7b)

- Not "Guiltless" – liable to punishment

## II. Applications

- A. God's "name" includes all forms and ways that He reveals Himself.
- B. The Third Commandment warns us against making a hypocritical profession of devotion to Christ.
- C. The way we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrate whether or not we have a \_\_\_\_\_ for God in our heart.
- D. We take God's name in vain when we \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_ violates the Third Commandment.
- F. The Third Commandment instructs you not to be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ by your \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:
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1. What is the Third Commandment (v. 7)?
2. What does it mean to “take” God’s name?
3. What does “in vain” mean?
4. What is the warning appended to the Third Commandment (v. 7b)?
5. How should we understand God’s warning when people are not immediately punished when they take God’s name in vain?
6. Who is the avenger of God’s name?
7. Is there a difference between vulgarity of speech and taking God’s name in vain? If so, what?
8. Does Scripture say anything about corrupt or perverse speech? If so, what?
9. When you examine your speech habits, what does your manner of communication reveal about your attitude toward God?
10. What vows and promises do Christians often neglect that amount to taking God’s name in vain?
11. Is it sinful to misinterpret Scripture? Explain.
12. How is being embarrassed or ashamed of our union with Christ a form of taking God’s name in vain?