

The 3rd Commandment

Exodus 20:7

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Days 36-37

June 8, 2014

Main Point:

You are guiltless in Christ; therefore, revere the Lord's name in all that you say and do.

1. The Lord's name is His person and His works.

2. The Lord's name is not to be blasphemed or misused.

3. The Lord's name is to be revered.

4. Revere the Lord's name because you are guiltless in Christ.

HC 99 Q. What is God's will for us in the Third Commandment? A. That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths, nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders. In a word, it requires that we use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe, so that we may properly confess Him, pray to Him, and praise Him in everything we do and say.

HC 100 Q. Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and cursing really such serious sin that God is angry also with those who do not do all they can to help prevent it and forbid it? A. Yes, indeed. No sin is greater, no sin makes God more angry than blaspheming His name. That is why He commanded the death penalty for it.

HC 101 Q. But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently? A. Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote truth and trustworthiness for God's glory and our neighbor's good. Such oaths are approved in God's Word and were rightly used by Old and New Testament believers.

HC 102 Q. May we swear by saints or other creatures? A. No. A legitimate oath means calling upon God as the one who knows my heart to witness to my truthfulness and to punish me if I swear falsely. No creature is worthy of such honor.

Exodus 34:5-7 ⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." (NKJV)

Psalms 8:1a ¹ O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth ... (NKJV)

Exodus 20:9-10 ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. (NKJV)

Leviticus 24:10-16 ¹⁰ Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father *was* an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel; and this Israelite *woman's* son and a man of Israel fought each other in the camp. ¹¹ And the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the name *of the LORD* and cursed; and so they brought him to Moses ... ¹³ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁴ "Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard *him* lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him. ¹⁵ "Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: `Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. ¹⁶ `And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name *of the LORD*, he shall be put to death. (NKJV)

Colossians 2:13-14 ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (NKJV)