**The Ten Commandments: The Name of the Lord**

*“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

**This command involves 3 things things:[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. Irreverence:

"God's people were not forbidden to use God's name. Many orthodox Jews take this commandment more strictly than God intended, refusing to use God's special divine name at all, for fear of misusing it. But God wants us to use his name! This is proven by the Old Testament, where God's sacred divine name is used all over the place - almost seven thousand occurrences in all. God gave us his name so that we would be able to address him personally. Calling him by name strengthens our love relationship with him."[[2]](#footnote-2)

* + - 1. **Positive: Colossians 3:17**

* + - 1. **Negative: Ezekiel 36:22-28**

1. Bad language:
2. Promise-keeping:

"Reluctance to treat our word as our bond - unwillingness, that is, to count ourselves committed by what we actually said - is a symptom of sin, which is the moral maggot destroying integrity. Why are marriage vows, contracts between employer and employee, and ordinary promises - to do this, to see to that, to be here, to go there - so frequently broken? Why is our life littered with promises that, whether from malice, bad management, self-seeking, or sheer carelessness we have failed to keep? Why do we so often let down those who trusted what we said? Because of our sinful unwillingness to take our own words seriously."[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Jesus and the 3rd Commandment:**

* **Matthew 7:21-23**
* **Philippians 2:9-11**

1. Much of the following is owed to: Packer, *Keeping the Ten Commandments*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ryken, *Written in Stone*, 88. I am also indebted to Ryken for much of what is included in this material. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Packer, *Keeping the Ten Commandments*, 59–60. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)