

The Ten Commandments  
Treasure the Name  
Exodus 20:7

When we think of taking God's name in vain, we generally think of using it as a curse word. We think that we can be obedient to this command with a little discipline, a little self-control, and a non-lazy command of our language. But this command, like the others, is not just about behavioral disciplines. It is about the heart. It is about obeying something deeper that can only be accomplished in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. Profaning the name of God belittles His majesty.
2. Coopting the name of God belittles His character.
3. Misappropriating the name of God belittles His grace.

We understand that the gospel has been entrusted to us, so that the world might know of God's redemptive plan for them through His Son, Jesus. We pray that we are found faithful stewards of that gospel. Likewise, we are stewards of the name of God. He has revealed Himself to us, saved us, and appointed us as ambassadors of that name. We steward that name well when we allow the Spirit to conform us to His image, and we live our lives in obedience to His commands according to His nature and character.

For further consideration:

Have you ever considered the sacredness of the name of God and the Being that name represents? How have you intentionally or unintentionally broken the third commandment? Which of the misuses of God's name are you most prone to commit, profaning, coopting, or misappropriating? What routines need to change or what situations need to be avoided so that your heart and verbal responses would reflect a desire to honor the name of God? Does the way you pray reflect the sacredness of God's name? How should the sacredness of God's name shape your worship?