



Message Discussion Guide Week of September 24, 2023

Message: The Ten Commandments, Part 3: What's in a Name?

Key Scriptures: [Exodus 20:7](#), [Acts 4:8-12](#)

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

Our names matter. More than practical tools used for identifying each other, our names represent our character and reputation. We care about how our names are used and want our names to be associated with good things.

If our names matter to us, God's name matters even more to God:

- In Exodus 3:14, God's name is identified, "I am who I am." God is the one whose name is His being.
- God's name represents God's grace, love, and the power of God's salvation.
- The name of God is to be lifted high and set apart as holy.

The Third Commandment regulates our words because our words are a reflection of our hearts. It should cause us to ask, "Does the way I speak about God reflect a heart that is fully surrendered to God?"

Three ways we misuse God's name:

1. We use God's name frivolously, using God's name in ways that make God seem insignificant. (ex., OMG, or using God's name as a curse word.)
2. We commit forgery with God's name. We use God's name to bless our agenda instead of doing God's will. Many selfish and hateful things have been done in God's name.
3. We use God's name flippantly. We say a lot of "right" words about God, but don't really mean what we are saying.

The proper way to use God's name is to live a life that brings God glory. We are baptized into the name of God, adopted into God's family, and called to bring honor to the family name in the way we live.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What does your name mean to you? Have you ever felt like your name was under attack or being sullied? What does it mean to have a “good name?”
- 2.) Read [Exodus 3:13-14](#), and [Acts 4:8-12](#)
 - a. What is God’s name? What is the meaning of that name?
 - b. Why is God’s name so important?
 - c. What does it mean to praise God’s holy name?
 - d. Why do we pray in the name of Jesus?
- 3.) Read the Third Commandment in [Exodus 20:7](#):
 - a. Where do you see God’s name being misused in our culture today?
 - b. How have you misused God’s name?
 - c. Why is it so easy for us to use God’s name so frivolously?
 - d. Why is this commandment important?
- 4.) What is the relationship between baptism and the name of God? Why are we baptized “in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?”
- 5.) What are some practical ways that you can be more intentional about using God’s name in ways that bring God glory and not misusing the name of the Lord?
- 6.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?

Abundant Life Tip: When we are baptized, God adopts us into his family and stamps us with his name. Our calling is to live in a way that brings honor to God’s name.