



The Ten Commandments

Honouring the Lord's Name



RULE



Exodus 20:7

*You shall not take
the name of the LORD your God
in vain,
for LORD will not hold him guiltless
who takes His name in vain.*

Great authority is vested in the Lord's name



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The Principle of the Name

- All power in heaven and on earth resides in the person of God
- Another way of saying this is that this power resides in His name
- There is nothing greater than the person of God Himself
- God defines the principles of goodness
- Good and evil, have no existence in themselves
- Good and evil are God's assessment of things
- There are no ideals to which God ascribes
- Nothing holds God to account
- God sets the ideals and what must give account to Him
- God is totally and absolutely sovereign, that is, above everything
- God decides what is good. Good is what pleases God
- Nothing can judge or assess God



Abuse of the Name

- Three main ways
 - Blasphemy
 - Imprudence
 - Personal pride
 - Corruptly seeking endorsement for our own reputation
 - Discontent with who God has made us to be
 - Seeking to be our own source of goodness
 - Building our own name rather than submitting to the name above all names.



REASON

- To create respect for the name of God.
 - To create the atmosphere where real faith is nurtured.
 - When God is properly enthroned in our hearts, true worship and adoration is released
 - God is then able to move amongst His people in the true exercise of His love, might and power
 - To challenge us to walk worthy of His name
 - To check us chasing endorsement for our own name.
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REACTION

- When we do not honour God as God we live in various forms of reaction
- These reactions become the sin patterns for each commandment.
 - blasphemy,
 - disorderly living
 - seeking endorsement.



Blasphemy

- Blasphemy is the vulgar or disrespectful use of the Lord's name
 - This is often motivated by anger or rebellion
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Disorderly Living

- ▶ Our behaviour and speech should honour Him who is our head
- ▶ Many scriptures challenge us to walk worthy of His name
- ▶ **Romans 2:23-24**

*You who make your boast in the law,
do you dishonour God through breaking the law?*

***For "the name of God is
blasphemed among the Gentiles
because of you,"***



Seeking Endorsement

- Motivated by insecurity
- Result of disobeying second commandment in building images (idols)
- We offend the rule of this commandment by abusing the principle of the name in our lives.
- This may be done by
 - rejecting the rightful honour we should give the name of God,
 - seeking endorsement for our own name.

This is often seeking of endorsement for the self images (idols) we have been building.

The self effort required can be a great source of stress

Presumption

- ▶ Outwardly pious - may delight in impressive testimonies
- ▶ May claim faith and an effervescent hope and seek prominence
- ▶ May be seen by the Lord as futile posturing and vanity
- ▶ The Lord desires obedience and not sacrifice. (Psalm 51:16-17, Isaiah 66:1-3)
- ▶ An example of this is Saul who sought to use his name as King of Israel for his own glory. It was presumptuous rebellion that caused his downfall
- ▶ **1 Samuel 15:22-23**

Then Samuel said:

*"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.*

*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*

*Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
He also has rejected you from being king."*

Politicking

- Seeking power as the answer to insecurity
- Uses the influence of name to manipulate others.
- May resort to flattery and opportunism.
- Consider David's son, Absalom
- **2 Samuel 15:1-4**

In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him.

He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him,

"What town are you from?"

He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel."

Then Absalom would say to him,

"Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you."

And Absalom would add,

"If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice."



REMEDY

- There are three aspects of the remedy.
 - The **rod** is to the hand of God upon us in discipline.
 - The **revelation** is the truth in Christ that can set us free
 - The **release** is the living freedom of the soul set free to obey



Rod

- Damage to reputation?
- Example of Saul at Gilgal.
- **1 Samuel 15:24-26**

Then Saul said to Samuel,

"I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

"Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."

But Samuel said to Saul,

"I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."



Revelation

- Appreciation of the awesomeness of God.
- This prevents both blasphemy and reputation seeking.
- **Deuteronomy 32:3-4**

*For I proclaim the name of the LORD:
Ascribe greatness to our God.
He is the Rock,
His work is perfect
For all His ways are justice,
A God of truth and without injustice
Righteous and upright is He*

Release

- The pure joy that comes from adoration
- Happy to be of no reputation or significance.
- Like Jesus we cast our own reputation aside.
- Free from ungodly ambition
- **Philippians 2:5-9**

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
who, being in the form of God,
did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
but made Himself of no reputation,
taking the form of a bondservant,
and coming in the likeness of men.*

*And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself
and became obedient to the point of death,
Even the death of the cross.*

*Therefore God also has highly exalted Him
and given Him
the name which is above every name,*