

Commandment #3 2006 TREAT THE LORD'S NAME WITH RESPECT
James 3:1-12 Exodus 20: 7You shall not misuse the name of the Lord you God,
for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.

Today we're looking at the 3rd commandment.
 Which comes right to the point.

Ex. 20:7 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. For the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

I don't know about you but it seems the language of our society has gotten a lot worse in the media, movies and Television sitcoms, and our sports events
 Which way would you say America is heading?
 Would you say we're moving toward God or away from God?
 Are we moving toward perfection and purity or filth and smut?

Yet there is hope: Boston University has a new policy forbidding the use of swear words at sports events, along with racist and sexist comments. The penalty is expulsion from the sporting event,
 I SAY --GO BU.

However, it has enraged students who say that cursing is practically tradition. An 18 year old said: This is a "terrible infringement on our freedom of speech. Sports won't be fun anymore."

Someone has said Profanity is the language a person uses to fill the gaps when the brain miss-fires.
 Friends, America is shooting blanks.

The liberal media and talk show hosts have been using language to desecrate the Living God and any responsibility to him.
 Howard Stern leads the pack with profanity and filth with pornography and an ongoing barrage against women.

He is closely followed by the rappers

Now NBC has decided to follow the lead of Rosie O'Donnell and ABC, in the bashing of Christians by airing a Madonna special in November.

**Where Madonna, wears a fake crown of thorns,
 descends on a suspended mirrored, disco ball-type cross
 to mock the crucifixion of our Lord.**

This video mocks the very one who died that she might have life.

When your **language** becomes careless, then your living become careless,

Matthew 12:36-37 I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 for by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

The most religious act we can experience is calling on God in Jesus' name to seek an intimate relationship With him. So why would people curse **the very God** who created them? And damn **His Son Jesus** who saved them?

Let me suggest three categories of people who swear and take God's name in vain.

I. FIRST CATEGORY ARE THOSE WHO ARE UNINFORMED: THE CLUELESS CURSER:

Oblivious to God's name and His importance.
They curse God in ignorance.
Careless user of a priceless commodity.
Bad habit

KJV TRANSLATES THIS:

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Exodus 20:7

Vain means to use God's name in an improper or irreverent manner.

I remember when I was in the 2nd or 3rd grade. It was recess, And I overheard the older boys using a four Letter swear word. Everybody laughed. My little mind though wow, There is power in that word. I didn't know what it meant, But in the course of 5 minutes on the school ground I used that Word with the same gusto that the big boys did. But the older girls heard it, And reported me to Miss Wieland My teacher whose sudden explosion of emotion told me I was in trouble. She went so far as to call my mother. And when I got home instead of a peanut butter sandwich that stuck to the roof of my mouth, I got a bar of Ivory soap and in 15 minutes I was foaming at the mouth I didn't learn the meaning of the word for another 3 years. I was clueless, uninformed.

Volumes of people are clueless and just uninformed.
 I have had a man come up to me after my sermon and say:
 Pastor that was a Hell of a sermon.
 That man was clueless.

It seems we are bombarded by bad language.
 Everywhere we turn there are expletives, and profanity
 Four letter words that people seem to use when they
 Run out of vocabulary.
 Its like our culture is on a perpetual swearathon.
 And every movie and producer trying to outdo-do the other.
 But God's word says beware when you swear.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. For the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Exodus 20:7

Maybe you have been a clueless swearer.
 An uninformed violator of the 3rd commandment
 You are NOW informed
 And from this point on, if we misuse God's name
 we will not be held guiltless before the judgment seat of Christ.

Right now for about 5 seconds I want to give you a chance
 to apologize to God for having sinned by profaning his name.

- I. WE HAVE THE CLUELESS CURSER.**
- II. WE HAVE THE CARELESS CURSER.**

This is someone who is informed.
 They have heard of the 10 commandments.
 They know Gods law.

But they say: Well sometimes I loose control.
Leviticus 19:12: And you shall not swear by my name falsely and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD"
Profane- irreverent contempt for that which is holy.
It is -debasing or defiling that which is holy or worthy of reverence.

When someone pulls ahead of me at McDonalds,
 Or slips ahead at Ken's in the checkout line.
 Or hit I hit my thumb with a hammer, or.

I strike out at a softball game,
Or the Vikings loose.

Then the wheels are off.
I blow it and I curse God.
I feel bad.
I know that I've sinned.
I apologize to God.

The careless curser is the person who
when they slip around a **pastor**
say: "I'm sorry,
Excuse me.
Or Pardon my French."
Now I'm German but I can tell you that isn't French.

Every Careless curser who takes the name of God in vain,
Or uses Jesus name flippantly knows
deep down inside it's not right.

We can take some small comfort from James.
Who says that the **tongue is terribly difficult to control.**

James 3:5-8 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but.... its a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.⁸ no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

In the spring at Niagara Falls, the ice comes rushing down the river. Inside the huge blocks of ice are the carcasses of dead fish from the winter kill. Sea Gulls by the score ride down the river feeding on the fish. As they come to the brink of the falls, their wings would go out, and they escape from the falls and its freezing mist. One gull seemed to delay a little longer and people wondered when it would leave. It was engrossed in the carcass of a fish, and when it finally came to the brink of the falls, out went its powerful wings. The bird flapped and flapped and even lifted the ice out of the water, but it had delayed too long so that the mist had frozen its claws into the ice. The weight of the ice was too great, and the gull plunged into the abyss." Dr. George Sweeting

You and I may be careless in our use of God's name.
 We may think that when we get closer to the edge of Jordan
 on our way to heaven, then we will clean up our language.
 But for now we're content with the worlds slang & disrespect of a holy God.
**Psalmist says: 141:3 Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch
 over the door of my lips.**

The Psalmist realized we can wait too long
 It's too late when we are standing before a living God in Judgment
 To try to reverse a life of careless cursing.

**James 3:9-10 ⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with
 it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the
 same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.**

We must realize that the only way we can ultimately clean up our language
 Is by the cleansing work on our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
 James is saying you can't be double minded or be double tongued.
 And still be a Committed obedient and God-honoring Christian.

James goes on to say:

**James 3:11-12 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same
 spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?
 Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.**

Our Goal is to speak the truth in love.
 But it only happens when our heart undergoes
 a transformation by the power of God.

We need to shut up and we need to grow up
 And let God change our hearts.
 Work his miracle in us as we go
 to communion
 To bible study
 To church.
 To the office.

Now if the wheels are off on your life
 If you're a careless curser

Rom. 12:2 We need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds

That happens only when we allow Jesus to infiltrate our heart and soul.
The Holy Spirit can change the way we think and speak,
By taking captive not just every word,
But every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” II Corinthians 10:5

Are you a careless user who profanes the name of God?
I want to ask you to take a moment -- right now and ask God’s forgiveness
For the careless way you have used his name and profaned his being.

- I. THE CLUELESS CURSER NEEDS INFORMATION**
- II. THE CARELESS CURSER NEEDS TRANSFORMATION**
- III. THE CALLOUSED CURSER NEEDS SALVATION.**

The CALLOUSED CURSER OR INTENTIONAL CURSOR
may or may not be informed.

They may or may not even attempt control.

Their mouth is a dead giveaway to the fact that
they don’t love God.

They don’t respect him

They do not have an intimate relationship with Jesus.

They use God’s name with no regard of who God is.

Or what Jesus has done for them.

And they curse God and everything around them.

In the last times, the Bible says, the Antichrist will do just that.

Rev. 13:6, And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

The calloused curser.

I have been going to Canada fishing for over 30 years.

I enjoy our men’s fishing trip.

I go fishing for men and they go fishing for fish
and we both usually catch something.

Well one particular year there were three of us in an Old
Wooden boat that had **an old carpet** in the bottom.

I was busy Catching fish,

when I noticed that my partner had one bad backlash,
 and he was patiently unraveling it.
 Well, on his very next cast his treble hook caught in the carpet floor.
 And another huge backlash,
 And for the next ten minutes and I heard him proceed to ask
 God to damn our boat to hell.
 I'm thinking wow we're in 100 feet of water
 The boat was leaking enough on its own.
 And he's asking God to help it on its way down.
 He wasn't kidding.
 This was an intentional cursing request.
 this wasn't the time to say: Hey watch your language.
 Because He would have me following to the same fiery destination.

When we add God's name to damn something.
 We're asking God to do something he doesn't do
 He doesn't damn any person to hell.
 We choose hell ourselves.
 When we walk over and trample upon the grace and forgiveness of God.
 When we discard the name of Jesus
 When we ignore the cross
 and Jesus suffering and death.

It's the creature telling the Creator what to do.
 I will speak, and live as I want regardless of God's will for my life.

Some folks use Gods name and authority flippantly:
 O My God.
 O God Almighty.
 O Jesus Christ.
 Or Jeesss us.
 We profane God's name because we make light of that which is Holy.
 And we flippantly use God's name
 As we either blame or defame God for our problems, pain, even our surprise.

How can a person who has been saved by the Lord Jesus.
 Cleansed and forgiven by his precious blood.
 Knowing that He suffered a bloodied tortured death.
 Knowing that he is providing a home in heaven.
 How can a person trash or trivialize this holy name of our loving God?

Notice the artist rendition in the following slide, of those in heaven and hell
And on earth bowing before our Lord.

Phil 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

God's name was so holy
That the old Jewish scribes never used it.
If they wrote it they would have to throw away the
Quill after writing it.

It is so hallowed that someday....
Every knee even in hell, will bow and confess that He is lord.
To the glory of God the father.

No wonder God tacked on the second warning with this command.
The Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.

**((((Exodus 20: 6You shall not misuse the name of the Lord you God,
for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.))))**

I believe that people who regularly take Gods name in vain.
Are not Christians.
They are not Christ followers.
They don't have a tongue problem.
They have a heart problem.

Because it is in Jesus name that we are changed,
That we find purpose,
That we are cleansed

"Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. ..But your name alone do we honor. Isaiah 26:8, 13b

If your here this morning

And you are guilty of cursing and disrespecting Gods name
I challenge you to bow your heads
To confess your sin.
And to ask God to change your heart and transform your mouth.
To never again profane God's name and
His Son Jesus who gave his life to save you.
Let us pray

Lord God, we thank you for your mercy and patience with us.
We have willfully and carelessly used your name in vain.
Forgive and cleanse us today.
And let the Holy Spirit ever search our hearts and
Direct our minds to be Faithful followers
of our Lord Jesus who serve you willingly and well.
I pray in Jesus Name.
Amen.

Join me in the great Charles Wesley Hymn that
Honors God's name.
HYMN #57 O For a 1000 Tongues to Sing