

What's in a Name?

Just like the Israelites, there are lowercase-g gods all around us, influencing our priorities, our morality, even our eternity. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He wasn't just handing down a list of do's and don'ts, He was providing a plan to battle the lowercase-g gods in our lives.



INTRODUCTION

Many of us may feel that we know what it means to take the Lord's name in vain, but disobeying the third commandment goes far beyond swearing or using God's name carelessly. In this sermon, Pastor David helps us understand how we can avoid trivializing the character of God in our own lives.

STARTER QUESTION

1. Pastor David talked about the different nicknames he's had in his life. What's a nickname that you've been given? How did you get it?

INTO THE WORD

2. Read Exodus 20:7, Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:21, and Revelation 19:16. Considering these verses, what do you think it means to take the Lord's name in vain? What would it mean to take a name like "Prince of Peace" in vain?
3. Read Matthew 1:23 and Revelation 1:8. What do the names of God in these verses, as well as in the verses in the question above, reveal about His character?

APPLICATION

4. Pastor David talked about how taking the Lord's name in vain is not only swearing or using His name carelessly in our speech—it also involves the manner in which we live our lives. Is this teaching different than how you've viewed the third commandment in the past? If so, how?
5. One of the ways we can trivialize God's name in our lives is by not keeping our promises or vows. How does keeping our commitments reflect God's character to others? How could *not* keeping our promises impact how those around us view God?
6. Pastor David explained that we can take God's name in vain in four key ways: by not keeping our promises, manipulating God's will, living lives that don't match our lips, and saying we love God but don't know Him. Do you struggle in any of these areas? What steps can you take to avoid breaking the third commandment?

PRAYER

Lord, forgive us for the ways in which we belittle Your name in our lives, and lead us to recognize the areas where we are doing so. Help us to turn from this behavior and respect Your holy name in everything we do. Let us put our faith in the strong tower that Proverbs 18:10 tells us Your name truly is. In Jesus's name, Amen.