

# Salt and Light for the King

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## The 3rd Commandment: Purity of Speech

Jan 08-22, 2023

### Ethics and the Mosaic Law: Part II

*How should Christians use the Old Testament for ethical guidance?*

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the YHWH your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”

#### “The name of YHWH your God”

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- Naming conveys:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ or reputation

#### “Taking...in vain”

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- “taking” = to lift, bear/carry
- “in vain” = emptiness, nothingness
- What does it mean?

Display a lack \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for all of God’s great majesty

Irreverence, dishonor, slander, mocking, blasphemy, gossip, lying, false witness
- Godly reverence (Exod 34:6-8; Job 42:5-6; Rev 7:11)

Psalm 24:3-4 “Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.”

## Oaths, Vows, Confessions and Blessings

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### Oaths

- Call upon God as a \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of a statement (Josh 7:16-21; Mk 6:23; Mt 26:63-67, 74-76)
- Even \_\_\_\_\_ swears oaths! (Gen 22:15-16; Ps 89:3; 110:4; Lk 1:73; Acts 2:30; Heb 6:13-18; Mt 5:18; Jn 1:51)
- Consider how Paul used oaths (2 Cor 1:23; Rom 1:9; Gal 1:20; Php 1:8; 1 Thess 5:27)
- What about Jesus' teaching in Mt 5:33-37 or Mt 23:16-22 ?

### Vows

- A \_\_\_\_\_ to God to take certain \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Sam 1:10-11; Gen 28:20-22; 31:13; Acts 23:12-13)
- Don't vow to \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Sam 25; 1 Sam 14:24-46; Judg 11:30-31; Jer 44:15-19; Acts 5:1-6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ your vows (Dt 23:21-23; Etc 5:1-7; Ps 15; 2 Cor 1:15-20; James 5:12)
- Can a vow be broken (Num 30:1-2)?

### Confessions

- We confess that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 15:1-11; 1 Tim 3:14-16; 2 Tim 2:8-13)
- What is the root of a failure to confess (Jn 12:42-43; 2 Sam 12:13-14)?
- A declaration of \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 10:32-33; Rom 10:9-11; Mt 5:14-16; 1 Pt 3:13-17)

### Blessings

- Benediction: When someone calls upon God to bless his people
- God blesses by placing his \_\_\_\_\_ upon his people (Numb 6:22-27; 2 Cor 13:14)

## Offensive Speech: Taking the Name of the LORD in vain

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### Cursing/Blasphemy Against God

- Sanctioned by God (Lev 24:11-16)
- What about today (Heb 10:26-31)?
- What about freedom of speech? Should there be civil “blasphemy” laws?

### Cursing People or Creation

- Cursing (Rom 12:14; James 3:5-12; Ps 109:16-20; Prov 17:5, 15; Lev 19:14)
- Jesus condemned \_\_\_\_\_ cursing/condemnation (Mt 5:21-22)
- Should you be worried about being cursed (Prov 26:2; 2 Sam 16:5-15; 1 Pt 2:21-23; 3:8-12; 2. Tim 4:14-18)?

### Profanity: Obscene/Vulgar Speech

- Using the actual names of God as profanity, expletives in surprise or anger
  - What about substitutions for God’s name?
- Common areas of vulgar speech: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- Biblical examples (Php 3:2, 8; Ga; 2:12; 5:12)

Eph 5:4 “Let there be no *filthiness* nor foolish talk nor *crude joking*, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.”

### Crude Humor

- Positive view of humor (Prof 23:5; 26:15; 27:15-16) and laughter (Ps 2:4; 126:2; Gen 21:6; Prov 14:13; 15:13; Ecc 2:1-2; 7:1-6; 10:19; 11:9; Lk 6:21)
- Examples of humor in Scripture:
- Warnings against crude humor (Eph 5:4; Prov 10:30)

## Destructive Speech

Eph 4:25-32 “Therefore, having put away *falsehood*, let each one of you speak *the truth* with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no *corrupting talk* come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*”

- Corrupting speech is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 7:15-20; 12:33-37; 13:47-50; Lk 6:43-45)
- Edifying speech is about \_\_\_\_\_ up (Eph 4:16; 2 Cor 10:8; 2 Cor 13:10; Rom 15:2; 1 Cor 14:3-5)

## Repeating Impure Speech

- How would you quote/reference/represent impure speech?
- Biblical examples (Ps 14:1; Mk 3:30; 1 Cor 12:3; Lk 12:19; Ps 12)
- The Bible *honestly* portrays \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Negative Speech

- Gossip
- Slander
- Insincere speech
- Criminal speech, plotting, provoking