

The Third Commandment

Duties Toward God · The Ten Commandments

The third commandment protects God's name—His revealed character and reputation—from misuse and dishonor. This prohibits profanity and blasphemy but extends further: using God's name in false oaths, empty religious formulas, or hypocritical worship. To invoke God's name while living contrary to His character takes His name in vain. The commandment calls for reverence in all references to God, integrity in oaths sworn by His name, and consistency between profession and practice.

Key Verses

Exodus 20:7

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.

Leviticus 19:12

And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Matthew 6:9

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

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