

CALL to PRAYER - "Lord's Prayer" the first petition is, "Hallowed be Your Name"

## Exodus 20:7 - Vanity, Veracity & Profanity

INTRO - The Law is all about love, namely, how to love God & man. Rule #1= God is to be #1 *No Spiritual Adultery* and He will have no rivalry. Rule #2 = *No Spiritual Pornography*. God is beyond compare and we aren't to make images that "airbrush" a picture after our imagination. There is nothing like God and we are not to make any likeness of Him. God doesn't like it & its not loving to look at pictures & ignore the Person. Rule #3 deals w/ God's name & our tongue. Our tongue can tell on us and on our love. You can tell if you love someone by how you speak of that someone and react when that someone is spoken about. Your affections can be gaged by your conversations. God's name is to be hallowed. This command is about *truth and respect*, it is about *promises and profanity* and not speaking about God with *vanity*. Mankind balks at breaking *Rule #3* but God will not hold guiltless...those who are loveless... with His name on their lips.

### VANITY

- What does it mean to "take God's name in vain"?
  - It is to misuse it and use it in a useless fashion. To make it meaningless/useless
    - *Vanity, vanity all is vanity*. To do something in vain = useless Ps. 127:1-2
  - To use the Name lightly. Not in a weighty way "*its just empty words*"
- A lot of us learned to spell with the help of Aretha "R-E-S-P-E-C-T"
  - Love and respect go together. We are to respect and hallow His name...it is holy
  - Name not to be used in a common/profane way. ~~Flippant~~ but different/set apart
- Vanity is also linked to lying and deception Prov. 30:8
  - Our love for the God of Truth is seen when truth is on our lips
- The Name is Meaningful... to convey things Truthful...and only used as Respectful

### VERACITY

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment is about loving the God of Truth by being people of truth
  - Deut. 10:20. We *cling to God* by clinging to truth in swearing by His name
  - Lev. 19:12 - False lips profane the Name.
  - Jer. 4:2 - we are to swear.... in truth & justice & righteousness
- All speech is in some sense is "*swearing to God*". He gave us the power of speech
  - Jesus told us this in Matt. 5:33-37. Any oath is an oath to God - let your *yes be yes*
    - There is debate in Christianity over the properness of swearing to God
  - The US Constitution allows for application of, & deference to, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Command
    - Leaders can affirm or swear when taking their oaths of office
    - Jesus reminds us that all speech is essentially swearing to God
- Vows and promises are big part of life. Any orderly society must operate on truth
  - Business contracts/oaths of office/testimony in court/marriage vows - Heb. 6:16
  - *truth, whole truth & nothing but truth*. The God of truth will hold us to our word

- Rash vows - Ps. 66:13-14 - (foxhole promises) Lev. 5:4 (Ps. 15:4)
  - Judges 11:35 - Jephthah would rather break the 6<sup>th</sup> than the 3<sup>rd</sup> (a different mentality)
  - Acts 23:14 - horns of a dilemma of a really long diet
  - Eccles. 5:4-5 -better not to vow
- We must give an account for every idle word - Matt. 12:36-37
  - If we love God, we won't lie on God or use His name as a cover for a lie
  - His Name is meaningful and truthful. His name is to be hallowed/respected
  - All our words (especially if His name on lips) not uttered vainly but w/ veracity

## PROFANITY

- God's Name is taken in vain when it is used flippantly and as profanity
  - You can tell if you love someone by how you speak of that someone.... and also, how you react when that someone is spoken about or spoken against
    - Our conversations gage our affections (love compliments or cut downs?)
- The Name of God is not very hallowed in our land
  - "God" "Jesus" "Christ" "Lord" are often used....but without R.E.S.P.E.C.T.
    - The Holy Name is used primarily as profanity implying an empty vanity
    - The name used as if *meaningless* and shows an innate *lovelessness*
  - I hear it all time against The Father & The Son - shows/videos/movies/speech
    - Minced oath - chop it up and say it without saying it. Only imply it
    - Abbreviate it - O.M.G. is just another emoji (no biggie)
    - Empty it of it meaning - "Lord have mercy" "Good God Almighty"
  - We hear it so much we become desensitized
    - God takes blasphemy very seriously. Lev. 24:10-16 (cussing in fight)
    - We must give and account for every idle word or slip of the tongue
  - The top of our prayer list should be that God's name would be hallowed
- The Islamist shame us in this.
  - They are more zealous for the name of their false god and false prophet than we are of the name of the Only True God and His precious Son - Prophet & King
  - Ps. 69:9 (Rom. 15:3) *the reproaches against You have fallen on me*
    - Do we balk at blasphemy and say, "No biggie"?
    - Movie where 19<sup>th</sup> century Christian went to 21<sup>st</sup> century movie & ran out aghast that the Lords Name was used in vain...& Christians unconcerned
- Society will hold us guiltless, but God will not
  - Ex. 20:7 Matt. 12:36-37
    - Thank God there is forgiveness of blasphemy against Father and Son
      - We have all done it and need forgiveness for it
    - But there is not forgiveness for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
  - I have often heard blasphemy of Father & Son but rarely against the Holy Spirit. It seems that we intuitively know that the Father and Son have such a holy jealousy of the Spirit that to blaspheme Him is a sin that the Father won't forgive, and that the Son didn't die for. It is an eternal sin - Matt. 12:31-32
    - Exodus 20:7 Rule #3 is about Vanity, Veracity and Blasphemy