

10 Words of Grace. A Study of the Ten Commandments.

Week #4: Exodus 20. Misusing God's Name.

October 07, 2018

If you asked your neighbor what they thought of the 10 Commandments, you would probably get two responses. The first is that they are generally a good set of rules to follow. The second, however, would be that they have little if any idea of what the Commandments specifically say - people generally know they allude to 'the golden rule', but really don't know much more than that.

Most of us don't think about the Commandments much anymore ... if we're honest, we might say that they make us feel a bit guilty about our behavior. This fall, however, I want to challenge us to look at them *not* as a set of guilt-inducing Commands, but rather as words of grace from our loving Father in Heaven. Let's learn to see them as a beautiful mountain range that stands vigil over us generation after generation. And let us more importantly see that they point us carefully to God's grace poured out in Jesus Christ. *The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.* (Galatians 3:24).

Questions: #3 - Misusing God's Name.

1. Do you like your name? What does it mean? If you're a parent, how did you choose names for your children? What is the significance of having a name at all?
2. Our God has many names in the Bible. Read the names found in the following texts:
Gen. 17:1; Dan. 7:18, 22; Gen. 16:3; Gen. 22:14; Ex. 17:15; Judges 6:24; 1 Sam. I 1:3;
Psalm 23:1; Jer. 23:6; Mt. 7:11; Acts 4:24; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 1:8
 - Which of God's Names in this list is your favourite? What name would you create for Him?
3. Misusing God's name happens in various ways:
 - Irreverently: we can use His name to curse life & others.
 - Selfishly: we can misuse His name to manipulate others.
 - Impulsively: we can misuse His name to express fear, surprise and even delight.
 - Casually: we can misuse His name to casually make oaths and to spiritualize.Where have you misused God's name?
Where do you see our society misusing it, and which one bothers you the most?
4. Using God's name appropriately is the goal of the 3rd Commandment. When we do, it impacts others in a positive way.
 - We use God's name *Reverently*.
Read Psalm 29:2 Where do you see the Church honouring the name of the LORD?
 - We *Represent* God's name clearly.
Read 2 Timothy 2:19 & 1 Peter 2:9-12. In what way is your life communicating the names of God to others? Which of the names from Question #2 above would others recognize in you?
 - We *Rely* on God's name in everything.
Read Colossians 3:12-17 & 1 Thessalonians 5:16. How are you relying upon the name of God, both privately and with other Christians?
5. Jesus encouraged us to ask for things in His name - John 16:23-24.
 - Why is this so important?
 - What are you feeling prompted by the Holy Spirit to ask for in His name?
6. Memorize the 3rd Commandment this week.