

- (3) That Jehovah is to be worshipped in the ways He has chosen, rather than in the ways we might choose

3. The Third Commandment

Exodus 20:7 -- "Do not take upon your lips the name of the Lord your God vainly, because the Lord will not leave unpunished the one who takes His name upon his lips vainly."

a. What is forbidden by this commandment?

- (1) The use of God's Name in a meaningless, irreverent, ignorant, or superstitious manner (the meaning of שְׁמִי)
- (2) Blasphemy, which is cursing, reviling, mocking, or showing contempt for God's Person, God's name, God's Word, God's will, or God's works. Blasphemy also includes a claiming, on the part of a mere human being, of the attributes, prerogatives, or powers of deity as his or her own.
- (3) Profanity and sinful cursings
Profanity is the defiling, debasing, or desecrating that which is holy. A curse is a prayer or invocation for harm or injury to come upon one. All curses which cannot be attributed to God are sinful.
- (4) Perjury and false swearing of oaths
Perjury is the voluntary violation of an oath by swearing to what is untrue. An oath is a formal calling upon God to witness to the truth of what one says, or to witness that one sincerely intends to do what he says.
This commandment does not forbid the swearing of oaths (Note Deut. 6:13; Hebrews 6:13-18); it forbids the false swearing of oaths. The seeming contradiction to this assertion in James 5:12 and Matt. 5:33-37 is illuminated and resolved by the historical background in Judaism, especially in the Mishnah. Jesus and James were talking about the kinds of oaths used by sharp interpreters of Jewish traditional law to defraud people; and they (Jesus and James) were forbidding that kind of swearing.
- (5) All violations of lawful vows
A vow is a promise made to God
- (6) All use of God's name for our own ends, or doing of God's works in our own strength, for our own ends, and to achieve our own glory.

b. What is positively implied in this commandment?

This commandment implies that our thought of God should fit His Name, and that our speech and our conduct should correspond to that thought.