

The TENDER Commandments  
Exodus 20:7  
Love for God is Sincere

HOW MANY OF YOU LIKE HYPOCRITES?

No one likes a hypocrite, or likes to be called a hypocrite. Jesus, who was a very patient loving man, was quite hard on the Pharisees because of their HYPOCRISY.

A recent article in the London paper, The Guardian, tells us why we hate hypocrites...  
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/feb/10/why-everyone-hates-a-hypocrite-oliver-burkeman>

“Last month, the Yale psychologist Jillian Jordan and her colleagues made a persuasive [case](#) for a better reason why we are hostile to hypocrites: we hate hypocrites because they’re guilty of “false signaling” “ i.e. giving off one message, but doing the opposite. “Moral condemnation is a form of signaling through which we get status. It’s a shortcut to high moral status. No wonder we’ve evolved, or been socialized, to respond so angrily when we discover it was unearned.”

We hate it when someone does the thing he / she condemns. As children, we can be resentful toward a parent who lives by “do as I say, not as I do.”  
(the authors solution is to openly admit your hypocrisy- be honest about what you believe, but also about how you fall short.)

Unwittingly, the author opens a door for the gospel because it teaches us that “we’re all bigger sinners than we dare admit, but more forgiven than we dare imagine, through faith in Christ.”

We are Loved Moral Failures

Remember, the Ten Commandments are not a list of rules that God gave to simply help us have a better life. Following them will, in general, lead to a better life, but that is not why God gave them. The ten commandments reflect a relationship of love and loyalty – a relationship based on the gracious initiative of God. If we seek to follow them without the relationship, we’ll end up either proud or discouraged; self-congratulating or self-hating.

If the Law is “working for us” then we get proud, though we disguise it as gratitude.  
If we struggle and fail, then we are crushed.

The BIG MISTAKE is in thinking that the attraction of Christianity is that it is the best system available for making life work, and the 10 commandments set the tone. One could follow them and life would probably work better, but if you do so without having a relationship with God first, then all you’ll have is a better life here and now; you’ll STILL MISS God.

If you’re new or visiting I want you to know that our **Our mission, as a local community of believers, is to meet people where they are and help them become maturing and equipped followers of Jesus. The Ten Commandments may be new to you, and that’s OK. I hope you’ll have a better understanding of them as you come each week and hear the series.**

As we continue, my prayer is that in this series, we’ll all understand that **The Ten Commandments ARE NOT ABOUT WHAT God WANTS FROM US, BUT WHAT HE WANTS FOR US.**

**Remember that THE Ten Commandments ARE SOMEONE WE MEET BEFORE THEY ARE SOMETHING WE OBEY.**

The context of the Ten Commandments is to be understood as a Covenant commitment ceremony,  
Stipulations Relating To Loving

LOVE FOR God IS SINGULAR – EXCLUSIVE  
Love for God is SPIRITUAL

Today we see that love for God must be Sincere – this gets to the issue of hypocrisy in our profession and lives.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain." Exodus 20:7 NASB

The most common way the idea is stated is this, "If you're gonna talk the talk, you've gotta walk the walk".

i.e. If you're going to say that "He is our god and that you follow Him", you need to be sure that it is not in vain. Otherwise, it is hypocrisy.

How does the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment instruct us?

Walter Kaiser

"to take His name in vain" = to misuse it

His Name = His nature, being, very person; His fame or renown; His teaching or doctrine; His moral/ethical teaching.

Ways we misuse His name: 1) express mild surprise 2) fill in gaps in speeches or prayers 3) confirm something that is false.

While we will focus on the speech and behavior, we are by no means ignoring the fact that all of these activities are simply the expression of what is truly in the heart. Do not focus so clearly on what the command forbids that you fail to realize the real intent of helping us learn the importance of sanctifying the Lord in our hearts. Right speech and behavior begins with right thoughts, attitudes and desires.

**THE OBVIOUS: This is SERIOUS re: There is a sober warning - Lord's Prayer  
"Hallowed be Thy Name" WCF LC**

**Profanity** (Mehl) lit – "outside the temple" so profanity refers to "to treat something sacred with irreverence or disrespect"

**Blasphemy** – "Bruce Almighty" IF WE EVEN think about blasphemy, we don't think of it as something that is punishable by law; at least not here, or in the West. NOT SO FAST...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/23/world/europe/denmark-quran-burning.html?smid=tw-nytimesworld&smtyp=cur&r=0>

A 42 YR OLD man in Denmark has been charged with blasphemy for burning a Koran and then posting it on video. No one charged since 1971, no one convicted since 1946 when a man disguised as a priest baptized a doll at a masquerade ball.

**Irreverence about God and life in general – Irreverence regarding those made in the image of God**  
– a SNL, nothing is sacred approach to life

Taking Yahweh's name in vain is to treat him as one of the pagan gods, a god that can be manipulated, a god whose name does not require reverence in the heart and in the mouth. It is to treat Yahweh as if he were not the God that he is. And given the close approximation in ANE thought between a person and his name, to treat his name disrespectfully, to misuse it, is to belittle God and his nature. Rayburn

### Heresy

#### LESS OBVIOUS

Vain repetition in prayer or using God's name as a punctuation mark

-Spiritual presumption – asserting that “God told me” such and such when there is no biblical warrant for it. This is especially egregious when it is used to try to control the lives of others – “God told me that you should or shouldn't do such and such.”

Prayer in Jesus name but its' your own desire

Flippant use of the name of God or “Jesus” (“just suffering for Jesus”) (Horton p.104)

“God bless America” often seems more politically motivated than spiritually focused.

#### EVEN LESS OBVIOUS

Hypocrisy – attaching God's name to our cause (spiritual, social or political) when we are actually pursuing our own agenda – consciously or sub-consciously.

#### A DANGEROUS EXAMPLE OF HYPOCRISY

##### Matthew 7:15-23

Jesus explains that it is possible for people to be in name Christian, to look on the outside to be active even diligent. But when Jesus is asked do you know them? He says I never knew them. How can then be? He gives us an example, let's take a look, he gives us one of the most shocking and frightening examples in the whole Bible of what it means to take God's name in vain.

First of all, notice some things about them. It says on that day, that day is the last day, that day is judgment day, not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven but only he who does the will of the Father who is in heaven. Many will say on that day Lord, Lord did we not prophecy in thy name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? And then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Here we see three things:

1. these people are orthodox in their beliefs; they called Jesus Lord.

A little bit of background; in the Old Testament the Hebrew people knew God as Elohim,

Elohim = generic name for God

Yahweh = personal Name that God revealed to Moses

Kurios = Greek translation of Yahweh

Lord = English translation of kurios

And so Jesus shows us that on the last day these people come to Jesus and they are calling him Kurios, they're calling him Lord! The word Lord does not just mean “Mr. or sir” in this situation. Jesus is saying that these are people who are orthodox in their beliefs, they believe I am divine, they call me by a divine name. So in doctrine they have high doctrine, they've got it all together, but there is no spiritual reality.

2. not only do they have doctrinal correctness but they also have emotional engagement. They

don't just call Jesus Lord, no they say Lord, Lord! And you know in the Semitic cultures, in Hebrew culture, to emphasize something you did not use an exclamation or with an underline or with italics but instead, in Hebrew, the way you communicated intensity was that doubling of the name.

We see Intensity of emotion, these people don't just call Jesus Lord, they call him Lord, Lord. They are enthusiastic, they use his name and Jesus says I don't even know them.

3. **Not only do they have doctrinal correctness, not only are they emotionally engaged but they are also very, very active.** They are engaged in a great deal of Christian activity. They say Lord, Lord didn't we prophecy in your name. That means they go out and preach the word of God. We're healing people, we're doing miracles in your name, that means they were changing people's lives, they are ministering. So spiritually they are tremendously active and Jesus says "I don't know them."

Now listen, it's possible to have orthodox doctrine, emotional engagement, and to be extremely busy in Christian activity and for there to be NO spiritual reality backing it up. Now am I saying that doctrinal Orthodoxy, emotional engagement, and ministry activity are unimportant? Absolutely not, in fact I'll say that spiritual reality is always accompanied by those three things. But those three things can be in your life without spiritual reality.

## **II. What does it means to take God's name in sincerity?**

How can we have spiritual authenticity? What is that authenticity? What does it consist of? Jesus tells us right in this text that two things that they really lack.

Actually, you can go back to the two things which are implied whatever you use someone's name. Those things that are used by the child who says Daddy says let me in. The two things that are mentioned here are:

1. **The intimate relationship. (I never knew you)**
2. **Submission to the will of the one whose names you are using- "workers of lawlessness"**

But let me put it this way to **two marks of spiritual reality are:**

- a grasp of the grace of God – an intimate relationship of Adoption
- submission of your will to his will

Friends, here is what a Christian is. **The Christian is somebody who obeys because he/she already knows God as Father.** Or let me put this way **there are two ways to obey God.**

**The one is to obey so you will be accepted and loved and the other is to obey because you have conclusively been accepted and loved.**

Understand the dividing line between these two things is crucial. Your life and eternal destiny rest on this and understanding this. You can either obey the moral law of God so that you'll be **accepted** and loved or you obey because you are **accepted** and loved in Christ.

We have already seen that the 10 Commandments come after God graciously bringing Israel to himself – they didn't earn it.

John chapter 1 verse 12 puts it perfectly "to those who received him, to those who believed on his name he gave authority to become children of God."

How does a child get adopted into your family? By works? By efforts? By trying very hard? No, by

Grace, when you adopt a child you put your name on that child. That means the child is now in an accepted and conclusively loved condition.

CONCLUSION – Being Sincere...

Ex: MICHAEL FREEMAN – GT student and roommate- African American- very bright and bold in his faith. He had a conversation starter for when he encountered other black students, who often had a cross.

He'd ask this question, "You true to that cross?" i.e. by wearing the cross you are "taking the Name of God/ Jesus on your life. Are you taking it in vain or are you legit?"

That's the issue in the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment – "Do we take the Lord's name for our lives in a legit way, or do we take it in vain?" Are we "false signaling" to others by "taking the Lord's name" with our lips, but not with our lives

There is ONE who was true to the cross – in fact he went to the cross for us.

JESUS is in fact, THE NAME OF God MADE FLESH, and He was given the name above all names. Why? Phil 2

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

He did that so that we can live in relationship with Him, but for us to be true to that relationship our love for Him must be Singular, Spiritual, and Sincere.

### Third COMMANDMENT AND ROOTS, BRANCHES, FRUIT

The Ten Commandments show us the Nature of God, so we can sink our ROOTS INTO HIM

God HAS BEEN TRUE to us, to the point of giving His Son. When we see that and it registers on our souls it will create a Sincere love for Him

They show how we are to RELATE TO THE OTHER BRANCHES

We can't sincerely love God while hating others – believers and non-believers  
They show what the fruit of Loving God and Others looks like.

Caring for Sincere relationships and the growth of The fruit of the Spirit

### ABC'S OF COMING TO FAITH

--	--