

**UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

Fall/Winter, 2018

Pastor Jim Otte

***“Foundational Truth for a Confused World: The Ten Commandments”***

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**Session Six: The 2nd Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. (What’s in a Name?)**

**1. From Last Session:**

- a. Everyone serves one God or another; it’s either the True God or it’s the god of self.
- b. Serving the god of self is ultimately defeating, because it offers no eternal security.
- c. It’s a great time to be the Church!

**2. Opening Discussion:**

- a. The following list of names represent the top two baby names in the last 100 years. (Social Security)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Girl’s Name</b>	<b>Boy’s Name</b>
1920	Mary	John
1930	Mary	Robert
1940	Mary	James
1950	Linda	James
1960	Mary	David
1970	Jennifer	Michael
1980	Jennifer	Michael
1990	Jessica	Michael
2000	Emily	Jacob
2010	Isabella	Jacob
2017	Emma	Liam

- b. Is any part of your full name a family name?
- c. Were you ever been embarrassed by your name or wish your parents had given you another name?

**3. Exodus 20:7. “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.”**

- a. **“take the name”** – attaching God’s name or invoking His name
- b. **“in vain”** – the careless or wasted use of God’s name; to be disrespectful of God’s primacy/sovereignty in the universe.
- c. **“not hold anyone guiltless”** – holds you responsible for that sin

**4. From God’s perspective, His Name is equated with His Person:**

- a. **Foundational Truth #10:** How you treat God's name can reveal how important God \_\_\_\_\_ to you!
- i. **Isaiah 26:8.** Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws,<sup>[a]</sup> we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.
  - ii. **Jeremiah 34:16.** But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you has taken back the male and female slaves you had set free to go where they wished. You have forced them to become your slaves again.
  - iii. **Psalms 20:1.** May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.
- b. **Foundational Truth #11:** The attitude of reverence can be diminished, either by blatant disrespect or an \_\_\_\_\_ casual view of God.
- i. **Matthew 6:9.** This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
    1. "Our Father" – term of respect and love, as His children.
    2. Some people seek to eliminate the term "father," because of abusive experiences in their own families; a feminist view which downplays the value of men/fathers; the feeling that "father" promotes paternalism
  - ii. For Old Testament Jews, the Name of God carried the authority and the power of God! There was no casualness about the use of God's name!
  - iii. **Question:** In what ways are you seeing the effects of the diminished use of titles of respect in our culture today?

## 5. How do you use God's name respectfully?

- a. **Martin Luther:** We should fear and love God so that we may not curse, swear, use witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks. (Small Catechism)
- i. **Foundational Truth #12:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment is about where your \_\_\_\_\_ is (who is your God?). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment is about the integrity of the connection of your heart to your \_\_\_\_\_!
  - ii. "curse, swear"
    1. Invoke God's Name with the intent of bringing calamity upon someone else.
      - a. "God-d..."
    2. Lying and asserting its truth by attaching God's Name
      - a. "I swear to God"
      - b. "On my mother's grave..."
  - iii. "use witchcraft"
    1. Engage in satanic arts or to dabble in occultish practices.

- iv. **“lie or deceive by His name”** – *“dressing up oneself with God’s name, or making a pretty show, or claiming to be right” representing God’s Word as something it is not. Whether in worldly business or refined matters of faith and doctrine...* (The Large Catechism)
  - 1. Advertising yourself as a Christian in order to take advantage of the trust associated with God’s Name.
    - a. Dishonest business practices
    - b. False “Go Fund Me” efforts
  - 2. Using the inherent trust and authority of a Christian leader to abuse people and use them for your own evil ends.
- v. **“call upon it in every trouble”**
  - 1. ***Psalm 50:15.*** and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”
- vi. **“pray”**
  - 1. ***Philippians 2:9-10.*** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- vii. **“praise and give thanks.”**
  - 1. Living the attitude (your heart) of attributing to God all of your life, and speaking (your lips) words which give credit and praise to Him.