

Series: 10 Commandments

Title: "From Vanity to Value – Bearing the Name of Jesus"

Text: Exodus 20:7

Breaking the Ice:

Why is your name important to you? Has anyone ever made fun or mistreated your name? How did that make you feel?

Discussion/Study:

1. Read Exodus 20:7 – Kevin DeYoung says: "The word vain (as it's rendered in the ESV) can mean "empty," "nothing," "worthless," or "to no good purpose." We are forbidden, therefore, from taking the name of God (or taking up the name or bearing the name, as the phrase could be translated) in a manner that is wicked, worthless, or for wrong purposes." What are some ways that we take God's name "in vain"?
2. In addition to telling us what to avoid – i.e., treating/using God's name in a vain, empty or worthless way – the third commandment also tells us what to pursue, that is to treat them name of God in a way that reflects the worth of God. What are some ways that we practically do this?
3. **Read Colossians 3:17** - The Bible tells us that we can not only take God's name in vain by the way it rolls off our lips but also by the way it is portrayed in our lives. How is this possible?
4. **Read Matthew 28:19-20** - Baptism is in many ways a "naming ceremony". How do Christians bear the name of Jesus whether they chose to do so intentionally or not?
5. **Read Exodus 20:7** – It can be startling to hear that God "will not hold guiltless those who take His name in vain" and that there are instances where the earthly penalty for that sin in the context of God's OT people of Israel was death (Leviticus 24:10-16). How does the gospel of Jesus Christ demonstrate the significance of God's promise that He will not hold guiltless those who take His name in vain?
6. How does the gospel of Jesus' life, death and resurrection actually invite us to confess rather than minimize the many ways that we have taken God's name in vain? How does it invite beyond both denial of our sin and despair over our sin? What does this matter for you practically?
7. **Read Philippians 2:9-11** – How does the work of Jesus accomplished in the gospel actually drive us to treat His name with worth and honor?