

CONNECT

bella vista baptist church

Sunday, September 21, 2025



THE NAME

commandment three

Exodus 20:1-6

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

The BIG Idea

Live to make the name of the LORD known.

Introduction

The First Commandment prohibits worship of anything other than God. The Second Commandment prohibits the worship of any version of God that is less than God, e.g., carved images or any likeness of anything. The Third Commandment prohibits taking the name of the Lord in vain and promises consequences for those who do.

Sounds simple enough. Just avoid using God's name if you cuss and you're in the clear, right? Well, no. After all, what's in a name? Is it just the pronunciation of letters strung together? Or does a name encompass the whole of who a person is? If you think of a friend named Jim, do you think "J - I - M" or do you think of who Jim is as your friend?

The third commandment isn't just avoiding using God's name in a wrong way. It's about actively living to make His name known to others.

Verses for Meditation

Numbers 6:22-27

Matthew 5:33-37

Psalms 67

Questions for Reflection

How has this Sunday's consideration of the Third Commandment changed how you view the Third Commandment?

Is your name merely a group of letters strung together or do those letters represent something more? What is the more?

In what ways is the Third Commandment about more than the letters of God's name?

Brent talked about how God's people learned about who He is while in Egypt and on their journey to Mt Sinai. In what ways do you learn who God is? What did Brent identify as the two unfailing sources for knowing who God is?

Read Numbers 6:22-27. What is the significance of God putting His name on the people of Israel in verse 27? How should His blessing upon them in verses 24-26 have encouraged and strengthened them?

Practically, what are some ways you can begin every day mindful that you are the LORD's?

Brent shared how God's identity is no longer just upon us by a blessing, but within us by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). How should knowing that affect how you go into the world every day?

What are some ways you could take the LORD's name in vain by how you speak and how you live? How does your taking the LORD's name in vain affect how others see the LORD?

Practically, what are some things that help you be aware of God's presence in you throughout the day?

Read Psalm 67. How is Psalm 67 related to the blessing prescribed in Numbers 6:22-27? What specific phrases in Psalm 67 reveal why God places His blessing and identity on you?

How is God calling you to make His name known?

Hymn: Have Thine Own Way

Adelaide A. Pollard (1907)

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay!
Mold me and make me after thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolutely sway!
Filled with the Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.