

“God is Great, Beer is Good, &  
People Are Crazy”:  
The Ten Commandments

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Grad & Career Spring '11

# The Desire for Integrity

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The Third Commandment

# The Ten Commandments in the Context of the Redemptive Story

No.	Commandment (Exodus 20)	Pre-Fall Desire (that God seeks to redeem in us)	End times Fulfillment (Heb. 1:1-2)
1.	“You shall have no other gods before Me”	Desire for Worship	Jesus is Lord (Acts 10:36)
2.	“You shall not make for yourself an image...[and] bow down to them or worship them”	Desire for Relationship with a Personal God	Jesus is Immanuel (Matt. 1:23, Col. 1:15)
3.	“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain”	Desire for Integrity	Jesus is God’s Name & our Name (Phil.2:9-11; Rev. 13:6)

# The Third Commandment is about Attitude...

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*Desire for Integrity*

## *The Doctrine of the Christian Life* - John Frame

“The first commandment deals with the object of worship (situational perspective), the second with the regulation of worship (normative perspective), and the third with the attitude toward worship (existential perspective).”

# Our Attitude of Worship should be Reverent

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;

the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

- Isaiah 6:1-5

# It's Not Just a Name...

God's Name is...

- His Reputation
  - His Character
  - His Works
  - Himself
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- <sup>1</sup> May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. – Psalm 20:1
  - <sup>10</sup> The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. – Proverbs 18:10

# It's Not Just a Name...

Q. 54. What does the third commandment require?

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, qualities, regulations, word, and works.

Q. 55. What does the third commandment forbid?

A. The third commandment forbids our treating as unholy or abusing anything God uses to make Himself known.

- Westminster Shorter Catechism

If we worship God alone (1<sup>st</sup>),  
in the image of Jesus Christ  
revealed in God's Word (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
then it will lead us to *reverent  
worship* of His name through  
word and life (3<sup>rd</sup>).

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# Reverent Worship of His Name in Word

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# The Third Commandment: Exodus 20:7

- 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. (NAS)
- 7 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. (NIV)
- 7 No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won't put up with the irreverent use of his name. (The Message)

At first glance, the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment makes God look very thin-skinned. “Are you really going to be offended, God, if I use your name like a cuss word? Aren't you a big enough boy to handle this?”



1. In our broken world , we want to both worship our celebrities and see them brought down low. We do the same with God. We want to worship God and also see God brought down.

2. Even in the world, there are laws governing the legal use of other name for personal gain. Misuse of a name is significant.

# Our Words Reveal our Hearts

<sup>34</sup>"You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

<sup>35</sup>"The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

<sup>36</sup>"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

<sup>37</sup>"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." – Matthew 7:34-37

# Reverent Worship of His Name in Life

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*Desire for Integrity*

# Bearing God's Name...

“But the verb [take] here is not *amar* or *davar*, one of the common Hebrew words translated “speak.” Rather it is *nasa'*, a term usually translated “lift up, bear, carry. So the commandment is not only about speaking God's name, but, more broadly, bearing it. What does it mean to bear God's name?...we belong to him. Our identity is to be the people of God. We take that identity with us wherever we go. Whenever we violate his covenant, we bring dishonor on the name of God that we bear. We injure God's reputation, his good name.” – John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*

# Bearing God's Name...

<sup>22</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

<sup>24</sup> ““The LORD bless you  
and keep you;

<sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup> the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.””

<sup>27</sup> “So *they will put my name on the Israelites*, and I will bless them.” – Numbers 6:22-27 (NIV)

- The Aaronic Blessing shows that God's people bear God's name and because of that God will bless them for His own name's sake (for his own glory).

# Bearing God's Name...

<sup>6</sup> And [the beast] spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering *his name and his dwelling— that is, those who dwell in heaven.* – Revelations 13:6 (NLT)

- The Apostle John tells us that God's people are God's dwelling place and GOD'S NAME! When the beast slandered God's people it is the same as slandering God Himself!

# Bearing God's Name....

27 So God created human beings in his own image.  
In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." – Genesis 1:27-28

- When humans were made in God's image and called to rule this world, they were meant to be God's representatives, God's vice-regents. They were to represent and rule "in God's name" so to speak. It was God's original design for humans.

Reverently worshiping God's  
name through our life means  
living a life of integrity

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Desire for Integrity

# Definition of Integrity

1: firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values : incorruptibility

2: an unimpaired condition : soundness

3: the quality or state of being complete or undivided : completeness

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary online)

- We all want lives of integrity. We hate our sins, flaws, and weaknesses that keep us from living the life we want for ourselves – not to mention the life that God wants for us!

# Desire for Integrity

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup> And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>21</sup> So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup> but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- Romans 7:15-25

# Desire for Integrity...NOT Hypocrisy

<sup>6</sup>[Jesus] replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.

<sup>7</sup> They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are merely human rules.’ – Mark 7:6-7

# Desire for Integrity...NOT Hypocrisy

<sup>1</sup> “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.   <sup>2</sup> “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others...   <sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others...   <sup>16</sup> “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. – Matthew 6:1,2,5,16

# Desire for Integrity...NOT Hypocrisy

<sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. – Matthew 7:4-5

Matthew 23 – the whole chapter is Jesus' warning against the hypocrisy of the religious leaders.

# Desire for Integrity...NOT Hypocrisy

We don't like feeling like hypocrites so we often follow these options to reduce the distance between God's requirements and our adherence of them:

1. Lower the requirements of God's law
  2. Inflate our sense of righteousness
  3. Take God's grace for granted
  4. Work harder at adhering to God's law
- The end result of all these options is that we deprive ourselves of truly experiencing the depth of God's love for us and the freedom we have from the law.

# Jesus is the Name of God & His people's name

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Desire for Integrity

# Jesus: Crucified for Being God's Name

<sup>62</sup> Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

<sup>64</sup> "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: *From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.*"

<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "*He has spoken blasphemy!* Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered.

<sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him <sup>68</sup> and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?" -  
Matthew 26:62-67

# Jesus: the Only Name of Salvation

<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. - John 20:31

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” - Acts 4:12

- We are saved on account of His Name, His work, His righteousness, His forgiveness. Jesus is the only one with perfect integrity.

# Jesus: Fulfilling the Promise of the Spirit

<sup>16</sup> Then this further message came to me from the Lord: <sup>17</sup> “Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by the evil way they lived. To me their conduct was as unclean as a woman’s menstrual cloth. <sup>18</sup> They polluted the land with murder and the worship of idols,<sup>[a]</sup> so I poured out my fury on them. <sup>19</sup> I scattered them to many lands to punish them for the evil way they had lived. <sup>20</sup> But when they were scattered among the nations, they brought shame on my holy name. For the nations said, ‘These are the people of the Lord, but he couldn’t keep them safe in his own land!’ <sup>21</sup> Then I was concerned for my holy name, on which my people brought shame among the nations.

# Jesus: Fulfilling the Promise of the Spirit

<sup>22</sup> “Therefore, give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign Lord: I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect my holy name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations. <sup>23</sup> I will show how holy my great name is—the name on which you brought shame among the nations. And when I reveal my holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign Lord, then the nations will know that I am the Lord. <sup>24</sup> For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land.

# Jesus: Fulfilling the Promise of the Spirit

<sup>25</sup> “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. – Ezekiel 36:16-27

<sup>38</sup> *Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.- Acts 2:38*

# Integrity for the Broken

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Desire for Integrity

# Integrity for the Broken

- “The only strong argument against Christianity is Christians.” - G.K. Chesterton
- What happens is that people observe church members sinning. They reason within themselves, “That person professes to be a Christian. *Christians aren't supposed to sin.* That person is sinning; therefore, he is a hypocrite.” The unspoken assumption is that a Christian is one who claims he does not sin. In reality just the opposite is the case. For a Christian to be a Christian, he must first be a sinner. Being a sinner is a prerequisite for being a church member. The Christian church is one of the few organizations in the world that requires a public acknowledgement of sin as a condition for membership. In one sense the church has fewer hypocrites than any institution because by definition the church is a haven for sinners. If the church claimed to be an organization of perfect people then her claim would be hypocritical. But no such claim is made by the church. There is no slander in the charge that the church is full of sinners. Such a statement would only compliment the church for fulfilling her divinely appointed task. – R.C. Sproul, *Reason to Believe*

As fallen beings, a life of integrity cannot be perfection because it is not possible here. Life of integrity involves honesty, repentance, and reliance on God's grace.

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Desire for Integrity

