

# *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Question 53: Which is the third commandment?

**The third commandment is, "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."**

Question 54: What is required in the third commandment?

**The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.**

Question 55: What is forbidden in the third commandment?

**The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything God uses to make himself known.**

Question 56: What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?

**The reason annexed to the third commandment is, that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not allow them to escape his righteous judgment.**

## **Three fold goal for this series**

1. That we come to know God better.
2. That we come to know ourselves better.
3. That we have a greater apprehension of what Christ has done of us.

# God's Great Name

## Third Commandment

"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."

God's name represents \_\_\_\_\_.

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is *your name* in all the earth."

Psalm 8:1 NIV

The word "Vain" means \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### Three ways we take God's name in vain:

1. We take God's name in vain by our \_\_\_\_\_:

When we \_\_\_\_\_ what God has not \_\_\_\_\_

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men,  
who have been made in the likeness of God; NAU James 3:9

When we \_\_\_\_\_ using God's name

'You shall not swear falsely by *My name*, so as to profane the  
name of your God; I am the LORD.' NAU Leviticus 19:12

When we use God's titles without \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. We take God's name in vain in our \_\_\_\_\_:

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup> "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy *in Your name*, and *in Your name* cast out demons, and *in Your name* perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

NAU Matthew 7:21-23

## 3. We take God's name in vain by our \_\_\_\_\_:

<sup>11</sup> "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, *My name* will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to *My name*, and a grain offering that is pure; for *My name* will be great among the nations," says the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup> "But you are profaning it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.' <sup>13</sup> "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the LORD of hosts, "and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the LORD. <sup>14</sup> "But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the LORD of hosts, "and *My name* is feared among the nations."  
Malachi 1:11-14

## Breaking bad habits

### Believe the Gospel

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ to make God most important in your life.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus' reconciling work.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ your failures, \_\_\_\_\_ them, and \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel.