



**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21**



CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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When We Meet

Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am
Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
Kelly Kendall
Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale

Our Use of the Lord's Name

By Alex Hale

Exodus 20:7, *“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.”*

In our world, God's name is constantly used flippantly to express anger or surprise. You can hardly watch a movie, pick up a book, or listen to the radio without hearing God's name used in a casual, irreverent way.

What about us? We are all guilty at times of breaking this commandment, because the word *“vain”* literally means *“empty.”*

- When we pray meaningless or casual prayers in which we make empty promises or simply repeat prayers by rote memory, we are taking the Lord's name in vain.
- When we sing, *“I Surrender All,”* but in reality do not surrender anything, or engage in vain worship in other ways, we are taking the Lord's name in vain.
- When we use irreverent titles for God like *“the big Guy”* or *“the Man upstairs,”* we are taking the Lord's name in vain.
- When we say *“Oh my God!”* or text *“OMG,”* we are taking the Lord's name in vain.
- When we use cliches like *“Praise the Lord!”* but say them with no conviction, we are taking the Lord's name in vain.
- When we use the Lord's name to achieve selfish ends, we are taking the Lord's name in vain.
- When we say that God says things that the Bible does not say (i.e. *“The Lord spoke to me...”*) we are taking the Lord's name in vain.

One preacher wrote, *“When you think about it, perhaps the greatest sinning with the name of God is not done in barrooms where His holy name is interspersed with sewer talk – but in churches where the words of songs and prayers are not really meant and where sermons are preached that are not in line with the teachings of God's word.”*

This is a big deal! God obviously cares how we use His name! The word *“profane”* means *“debasement or defiling that which is holy or worthy of reverence.”* In other words, to *“profane”* something is to take something holy and drag it down to our level. By using God's name in a profane way, we are taking a holy God and attempting to reduce Him to someone just like us. Profaning God's name with our misuse is denying His holiness, majesty, and power. It is an attempt to pull Him down and make Him equal with us. I emphasize this point because many times people do not think that taking the Lord's name in vain is really that big of a deal, because we think that it is just a word, or just a name. Friends, what we say matters! There will be consequences for the words we speak (Matthew 12:36-37). Throughout His teaching, Jesus makes it clear that one's words are more than a mouth issue; they are an issue of the heart (Matthew 12:34; 15:18; Luke 6:45). The way an individual speaks is an accurate measure of his or her inner self (James 3:8-12). When bitter, hurtful, or profane words come from our mouths, that is a sign that something is wrong. If words that profane God come out of our mouths, that should be a wake-up call that something is wrong. Perhaps our study has helped open your eyes to see that you have used your mouth or life to misuse God's name. In Isaiah 6, an angel flew from God's throne with a hot coal to touch Isaiah's lips as if to cleanse them. Perhaps you need to ask God to touch your lips and make them clean.