



2nd Commandment

19 Minutes in Luther's Catechism

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Exodus 20:7

1. Have you ever heard of naming laws? From Wikipedia:

Denmark: *Under the Law on Personal Names, first names are picked from a list of approved names (18,000 female names and 15,000 male names as of Jan 1st 2016)... Names must indicate gender, cannot have surname character, and must follow Danish orthography (e.g. Cammmilla with three m's is not allowed).*

United States: *Comparably, America has fewer naming laws than most countries... Several states limit the number of characters... A few states ban the use of obscenity. There are also a few states, Kentucky for instance, that have no naming laws whatsoever. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naming_law, 12/7/16*

What's your opinion on naming laws?

2. Read the Bible passage above, Exodus 20:7.

- a. The old King James used to translate "...take the name of the LORD your God in vain." The NIV uses "misuse".

What different shading of meaning does each have?

What advantage do you see in each?

- b. What does it hurt to misuse a name? How would this happen with God?

3. If you look at all of the Ten Commandments, this is the only one with an explicit threat. Comment on that.

4. In the catechism, this is Martin Luther's explanation to this commandment:

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

What does each prohibition mean?

"curse, swear, lie, deceive, or use witchcraft"

- The Knowledge of God
- Law and Gospel
- Introduction to the Law
- 1st Commandment
- ▶ 2nd Commandment
- 3rd Commandment
- 4th Commandment
- 5th Commandment
- 6th Commandment
- 7th Commandment
- 8th Commandment
- 9th & 10th Commandments
- The Conclusion
- The Gospel & the Nature of God
- The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
- 1st Article (Creation)
- 1st Article (Preservation)
- 1st Article (Protection)
- 1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Person)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Office)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Work)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
- 2nd Article (Christian Life)
- 2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
- 3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
- 3rd Article (Calls)
- 3rd Article (Enlightens)
- 3rd Article (Sanctifies)
- 3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
- 3rd Article (Invisible Church)
- 3rd Article (Visible Church)
- 3rd Article (Forgiveness)
- 3rd Article (Eternal Life)
- Baptism (Part 1)
- Baptism (Part 2)
- Holy Communion (Part 1)
- Holy Communion (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 1)
- Keys & Confession (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 3)
- Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
- The Address
- 1st Petition
- 2nd Petition
- 3rd Petition
- 4th Petition
- 5th Petition
- 6th Petition
- 7th Petition
- The Doxology

4. What are the four positive things we should do with God's name, according to this explanation?

_____, _____, _____, _____

Give practical examples of how we do those four things.

"Children should continue to cross themselves when anything monstrous or terrible is seen or heard. They can shout, 'Lord God, protect us!' 'Help, dear Lord Jesus!' and such. Also, if anyone meets with unexpected good fortune, however trivial, he says, 'God be praised and thanked!' or 'God has bestowed this on me!'" (*Concordia, The Ten Commandments*, 366f.)

5. Evaluate the following, in relation to the Second Commandment:

A TV evangelist promises that all who pray to Jesus will be healed of their illnesses.

"My faith is between me and God. I really don't need to talk about it with other people."

"The First Commandment has instructed the heart and taught the faith. This commandment now leads us forward and directs the mouth and tongue to God. For the first things that spring from the heart and show themselves are words [Matthew 13:24]." (*ibid*, p.364)

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, keep us from misusing your name and thus bringing shame to you. Keep us from misrepresenting you before the world, telling them you are someone you are not. Teach us to be constant in thanking and praising you, in searching out all good in your name. Teach us to glorify your name by sharing your greatest good news of all, the Gospel. Amen.