

His Workmanship: Westside

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

—Ephesians 2:10

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Taking God Seriously, Part 2, by Ray Pritchard

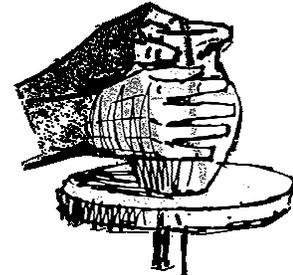
"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain," Ex 20:7.

God's name is important. His name was so precious and protected that the Jews would not even say it. Even today, many Jewish people write G-d instead of God as a sign of respect. God's name represents His character and protects His reputation. It also is a sign of His authority. A detective might shout, "Stop! In the name of the law!" The name of the law is the authority of the law. When we do something in the name of God that means we do it by His authority. God's name is precious, and we must not take it lightly. We misuse God's name in three ways:

A. Irreverence. Misusing God's name is taking it casually, lightly, or flippantly—throwing His name around without awe and reverence. It is a great contradiction of who we are as Christians if we say, "God!" or "My God!" or "God Almighty!" or "Christ!" or "Jesus!" just because we are mad or surprised or amazed. No one with a good marriage would stomp on his wedding ring to express anger. It stands for something precious and pure. And so does the name of God and Jesus Christ.

B. Profanity. We profane the Holiness of God's name when we make it ordi-

nary or common. Ezekiel explained what profaning means: "Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them," Ezek 22:26. From Latin *pro*-before and *fanum*-temple, profane means "unconcerned with the holy; impure, defiled, unsanctified; serving to debase or defile what is holy; verb, to treat something sacred with abuse, irreverence, contempt; to desecrate or violate by a wrong, unworthy, or vulgar use." Profaning God's name is equated to child sacrifice in Lev 18:21: "And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I AM the LORD." See Lev 20:3; Ezek 23:39. Stealing and idolatry, Pr 30:9; Ezek 20:39, also profane God's holy name. "I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name any more. Then the nations shall know that I AM the LORD, the Holy One in Israel," Ezek 39:7. God says He has "concern" for His holy name, Ezek 36:20-23, and He will not give His glory to another, Is 48:11; cf. Is 42:8; Lev 10:3. "But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles," Ezek 20:9, 14, 22.



Isaiah 64:8

1. "I Don't Mean Anything by It." We have an answer, don't we? When we get angry and begin to fill the air with profanity, we say, "I didn't mean anything by it" or "I was just letting off steam" or "That's not how I really feel." God doesn't buy that argument. When you say "Go to hell," you are praying a prayer. When you say, "God damn you," you are asking God to condemn someone's soul! The third commandment might be paraphrased, "You shall not use the name of the Lord without meaning something by it." Every time you use God's name, you'd better mean something by it...because God takes you and your words seriously, even if you don't.

2. **Ten Reasons I Swear.** A few years ago Alex Dunlap produced a tract with the title "Ten Reasons I Swear." The ten reasons throw into clear relief the foolishness of the habit:

1. It pleases mother so much.
 2. It is a fine mark of manliness.
 3. It proves I have self-control.
 4. It indicates how clearly my mind operates.
 5. It makes my conversation so pleasing to everybody.
 6. It leaves no doubt in anyone's mind as to my good breeding.
 7. It impresses people that I have more than an ordinary education.
 8. It is an unmistakable sign of culture,
- continued on p. 2

“Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!” —Psalm 105:3

learning, intelligence, and refinement.
9. It makes me a very desirable personality.

10. It is my way of honoring God, Who said, “*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*”

When we think about Christ coming from heaven to shed His blood for us, how can we dare use His name without thought? When we think about God Who loved us while we were yet sinners and sent His Son to the earth, how can we use His name in anger?

C. Promise-Breaking. A third way to dishonor God’s name is not to keep our word. Many of us would never connect promise-breaking with the third commandment. But consider how flippantly we speak. “*Tell me the truth,*” we say, because we know we don’t. “*Be serious,*” we cry, because we aren’t. “*No kidding,*” we remark, because we kid. We lack commitment to our own words.
—We break our marriage vows.
—We sign contracts we never intend to keep.

—We make appointments and then come 30 minutes late.

—We swear not to tell a soul—and we don’t...for about an hour!

—We promise to do something for a friend but then “something else” comes up.

Why? Because truth doesn’t mean very much to us. What does this have to do with “*taking God’s name in vain*”? Because God is a God of Truth. Deliberately breaking a promise is profaning the name of God. “*Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God,*” Lev 19:12. How can that be? When we make a promise, we are making it in the presence of God! He is here whether we use His name or not! All promises are made in His presence. William Barclay said: “*You cannot possibly keep God out of any transaction, for God is everywhere present, and whether*

His name is mentioned or not, He is there present when any promise is given or taken. All promises and pledges are made in the presence of God, just as all places are in the presence of God, and therefore an oath in the name of God is unnecessary, for God is there anyway,” The Ten Commandments For Today, p. 23. The next time you are about to make a promise, or take a vow, or make an appointment, or sign a contract, or agree to keep a secret, or promise to do something for a friend, ask yourself this question: “*Would I be so quick to agree to this if Jesus were standing beside me listening to the promise I am making?*” Remember, we have to account for every idle word we speak, Mt 12:36; cf. 5:33-37. Don’t say it if you don’t mean it! Every promise you make—even one you make in jest—is made in the presence of God.

III. Using God’s Name Rightly. Let’s briefly consider three ways in which we may use God’s name rightly.

A. Reverent Speech. The word “reverent” means “*showing honor or respect, esp. profound adoring awe and respect;*” from French *re*-again and *vereri*-to fear, it carries the idea of devoted, deferential (humble) honor; reverence presupposes intrinsic merit/worth and the inviolability of the one honored (God) plus a corresponding depth of feeling in the one honoring; revere stresses deference and tenderness of feeling; and venerate implies holding as holy or sacrosanct because of character, association, or age. They are connected to the words worship and adore.” God is so far removed from us in His holiness—which encompasses His entire character—that we can do no more than revere, venerate, worship, adore Him.

A man who nearly lost his oldest daughter in a terrible car accident said, “*All my life I’ve heard that God must be number one, then your family must be second, then everything else comes third. When something like this happens, you suddenly learn how true that is.*” God must be first—not only in our lives but also in

our hearts and on our lips.

B. Courageous Speech. A right appreciation of God’s name will give us courage in the moment of crisis. Do you remember what David said when he faced Goliath? “*You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, Whom you have defied,*” 1 Sam 17:45. Goliath must have laughed when he heard this brash teenager spouting nonsense about the name of the Lord Almighty. Hadn’t the Israelites fled in fear for 39 straight days? Hadn’t they been afraid to come out and fight? Now here comes this snot-nosed little runt of a pimply-faced kid talking trash to the mighty Goliath. What a joke! But before the day was over, Goliath discovered the joke was on him. David found a stone, put it in the slingshot, wound up, and let it go. Before Goliath knew what hit him, he fell to the ground—stoned out of his mind. It wasn’t the stone that made the difference. It was the God of David Who was faithful and the courage of David to go into battle “*in the name of the Lord.*”

A soldier in the army of Alexander the Great deserted his post in battle. When asked his name, the quaking soldier replied, “*Alexander, my lord.*” On hearing this, Alexander the Great said, “*You have three choices. Fight, get out of the army, or change your name.*” We bear the name of the Lord. His reputation in the world rests on us. We honor that name and increase His reputation when we speak up for Him before others. If we’re not going to get into the battle for God, then we ought to get out of the army or change our name!

C. Affirming Speech. “*It takes no size to criticize,*” is a good slogan when we’re tempted to take cheap shots at other people. The world is filled with critics—where are the affirmers? On every

continued on p. 3



God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

Take God Seriously, from p. 2 hand we have self-appointed "truth-tellers" whose calling in life seems to be finding what's wrong with everyone else. If you listen to them long enough they'll soon begin sniping at others. But there is a better way. Rotary Clubs use the Four-Way Test questions to ask when tempted to say something unkind.

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Pretty simple, isn't it? What a difference it would make if we applied those four questions this week! "*The tongue has the power of life and death,*" Pr 18:21. Every time we open our mouths either life or death comes out. What's been coming out of my mouth this week—life or death? Some people can't keep friends because they speak death into every relationship. They are so critical and petty that they kill every friendship they have. It's true for many marriages. They die because we kill them with our unkind words. It's true where we work. We destroy team spirit through backbiting, gossip, slander, and lying. It's true in our homes. Some families fall apart because the parents kill their children with harsh words.

- Death in our lips!
- A corpse in our mouth!
- The stench of the grave in our words!

Discipleship Here At Home

But the other side is also true. We may give life by the things we say.

- Positive words!
- Hopeful comments!
- Life-giving affirmations!
- Kind expressions!

Here is the bottom line: When we affirm others, God affirms them through us, and His name is honored. David said God "*inhabits the praises*" of His people, Ps 22:3 [God is "*enthroned in/on (or seated among) the praises of*" His people; He "*dwells amid their praises.*" Or as someone said, "*God becomes believable as we become lovable.*"

The Affirmation Project. Here's a three-step project that could make a big difference in your life this week.

Step # 1: Affirm God's goodness every day this week.

Step # 2: Affirm your loved ones every day this week.

Step # 3: Affirm one new person every day this week.

How do you affirm someone? Write him an encouraging note. Send her a gift— anonymously. Give her a hug. Call him on the phone. Tell him, "I love you." Congratulate him on his latest achievement. Pass along some good news. Give her a pat on the back. Take him out to lunch. Smile when you see her. Forgive him without being asked. Pray a special prayer for her. Send him an "*I was thinking about you*" card. Treat her to a banana split. Stop and say hello. Laugh at his dumb jokes. Tell her, "*God loves you, and so do I.*" Practice Col 4:6.

Does this seem far removed from the third commandment? It shouldn't. The third commandment is concerned with the things we say and do.

- Take God seriously!
- Take people seriously!

It's simple, and profound, and wonderfully relevant to us. This commandment will never go out of style, because it challenges us to think before we speak and to mean every word we say.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

·**Marie Sangellino**—thyroid cancer; surgery TBA
 ·**Rod Green**—confined at home, staph infection; needs meals sent to his home here
 ·**Ed Fink**—prostate cancer; treatment for brain tumors
 ·**Matt Reames's** fiancée, **Brooke Hedlum**—recent funeral for daughter **Brylee**; cards to 1463 Madison Ridge Hts, Unit C, CO Springs 80904 Pray for **Randy and Cheryl Reames**, who need comfort
 ·**Kory Tope's** coworker's brother, **John Jacoby**—shot to death while riding his bike; pray for the family's comfort, peace, and understanding and for justice in finding the murderer

·**Judy Sartin's** uncle **Ernie Ek**—stroke last week; age 92 in CA, fight pilot in WWII; Judy's friend in Houston, **Barbara Batura**—stage 2 cancer
 ·**Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; improving, MRI clear; treatment continues

·**Pat Wilkes**—surgery recovery for torn shoulder tendon/rotator cuff

·**Bill Dennis**—home following rehab on infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout

·**Sandra Perry**—possible kidney failure, may need dialysis or transplant; heart valve issues recently diagnosed; neuropathy from diabetes

·**Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo

·**Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer; broken ribs healed; doing better
 grandmother—on dialysis

·**Kim Howell's** niece **Tonya Robison**—delivered 32-week, 2 lb, 5 oz **Malachi Taylor Robison** several wks ago; in NICU in Louisville, KY

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr.; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease; her medication is being changed over the next few months, so she is home in early evenings with one of her parents

Jonathan Hadders—RA

Kirk Johnson—MS

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;

Virginia, macular degeneration; high bp

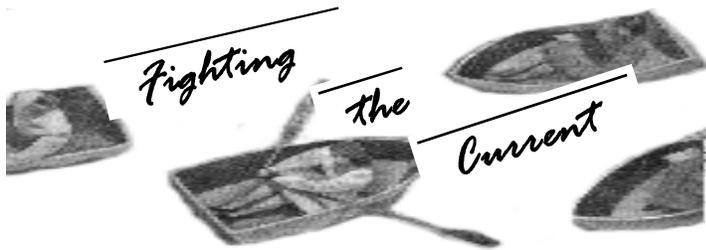
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis;

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Travel! **Meredith Walker** is in MN visiting family. The **Gintchins** are out of town until Aug. The **Howells** are visiting in OH, KY, and TN.

Vacation Bible School June 8-11, 9-11:15 am, ages 2 to 11. **DANIEL's Courage in Captivity!** Explore how God is with us, just like He was with Daniel and his friends in a land far away from home. *God is with us wherever we go!*



Exposing current thoughts & trends *sexual revolution*

Transgender US Wants Kids to Drink the Kool Aid, *by Mark Home*

Worse than the Jim Jones Marxist cult that brought death to hundreds, we are in the power of a seriously delusional and dangerous cult. Now the media, ABC Family network, is pushing life with a transgender father and son. A new docu-series, Becoming Us, follows a teen adjusting to his father's gender transition. Becoming Us centers on Ben, who watches as his dad Charlie divorces his mom and begins the gender transition into Carly, a woman. But the series will also focus on Ben's girlfriend Danielle, whose father is also undergoing a gender transition.

"I want to be able to provide guidance for kids who are going through it," Ben told People Magazine. "Maybe this will help them being able to deal with it." Right. TV shows on major networks always try to serve a tiny percentage of one per cent of the population.

A father needs to model many things to his son, including a basic confidence in himself, a proper attitude of respect for his health, and a concern for others rather than an obsessive focus on himself, Lk 15:20; Mt 7:9-11. And yes, he needs to be the masculine parent for the sakes of both his sons and daughters. Where is this kind of father on television?

This program is not to help the possible 200 "kids who are going through it," this is to spread among the population a complete disregard for biology, reproduction, and family in order to push the power of the state against the family, a rival social institution. With the state using civil rights law effectively to outlaw serious religion in society, this means it also functions as propaganda to help the state deal with its real rival social institution, the church. This is Transgender US, Transgender America, because transgender serves to promote the naked power of politics and deny all limits.

Conservative complaints commenting on Bruce Jenner miss the point. We don't have the option of ignoring him. He's an ambassador for public policy. You may think you don't care, but you don't have that luxury. You will be made to care in Transgender America.

More to the point, your children will be made to care at the age when they are most vulnerable to sexual confusion. Even if you can prevent them from watching the show, their classmates and friends will tell them about it, and social media and youtube.com will spread it among them. And by the way, do you think the media will ever report on any sexual or other scandals on these people? Ha! That only happens to the enemies of the regime.

This is a serious threat. You had better treat it that way.



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

• **adult Bible class, "Marriage Boot Camp: Basic Training in Communication,"** Jim Reingrover

• **Sermon, "Being a Strong Spiritual Influence,"** Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon, "An Expository Study of Jude," Payton Miller

Please welcome Payton Miller, who is working with Westside through July teaching/preaching during the PM services on Sunday and teaching a youth class on Wednesday nights. Jim will mentor Payton.