

The Second Commandment

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

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

What's in a name? I'm sure you've heard that phrase, or even used it yourself. In our society, a name is merely a handle, a tag, something we go by. Some people go by a diminutive form of their name. Such as Deborah may go by Debbie or Arthur go by Art. Some people may have a given name, but they go by another name all together, a nickname. And if you use their given name, people may look at you like a mule looking at a new gate. They don't know who you're talking about because they've never heard that name before. No, names don't mean much in our society.

But look at God's name. In fact, what is God's name? if we look at the answer to question #2 on our Catechesis Minute insert, we can see some of the names of God as revealed in His Word:

I AM WHO I AM

Wonderful Counselor

Mighty God

Everlasting Father

Prince of Peace

The Lord is Our Righteousness

Jesus

Father

Son

Holy Spirt

The Word

Each one of these names has a meaning and each one tells us something about Him. God's name is not just a handle. It is who He is. So, when use His name, we are using Him. This is why we don't use it carelessly or as an oath, curse, or lie, but only in prayer, praise, and to give thanks.