

The 2nd 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.

1. Why do we say in this and the following commandments, “We should fear and love God”?
 - a. The fulfillment of all commandments must flow from the fear and love of God (Psalm 111:10; John 14:23; cf. John 21:15-17)
2. What is God’s name?
 - a. God, as He has revealed Himself to us, His essence and His attributes.
 - i. I Am Who I Am (Exodus 3:14)
 - ii. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
 - iii. The Lord is Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)
 - iv. Jesus (Matthew 1:21)
 - v. Where two or three are gathered together in My name (Matthew 18:20)
 - vi. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)
 - vii. The Word (John 1:1)
3. What does God forbid in the Second Commandment?
 - a. In the Second Commandment God forbids us to misuse His name.
 - i. How is God’s name misused?
 1. When people speak God’s name uselessly or carelessly (Exodus 20:7)
 2. When people curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name
 - a. What is cursing by God’s name?
 - i. Blaspheming God by speaking evil of Him or mocking Him (Leviticus 24:15; cf. Matthew 27:39-43; 2 Kings 18:28-35; 19:21-22; John 8:48-59)
 - ii. Calling down the anger of God on oneself or any other person or thing (James 3:9-10; cf. Matthew 27:25; Matthew 26:74; Luke 9:51-55)
 - b. What is swearing by God’s name?
 - i. Swearing by God’s name is taking an oath in which we call on God to witness the truth of what we say or promise and to punish us if we lie or break our promise.
 1. When are we permitted, and even required, to take an oath?
 - a. We are permitted, and even required, to take an oath by God’s name when an oath is necessary for the glory of God or the welfare of our neighbor. Examples include the following: testimony in court, oath of office, wedding vows (Romans 13:1; Numbers 30:2;

Deuteronomy 6:13; Hebrews 6:16; cf. Matthew 26:63-64; Genesis 24:3)

2. When is swearing forbidden?
 - a. Swearing is forbidden when it is done falsely, thoughtlessly, or in sinful, uncertain, or unimportant matters (Leviticus 19:12; Matthew 5:33-37; cf. Matthew 26:72; Acts 23:12; Matthew 14:6-9; Judges 11:30-40)
 - c. What is using satanic arts by God's name?
 - i. Using God's name in order to perform or claim to perform supernatural things with the help of the devil, such as casting spells, calling up a spirit, fortune-telling, consulting the dead, or other occult practices (Deuteronomy 18:10-12; cf. Exodus 7—8; Acts 19:13-29)
 - ii. Joining with or seeking the aid of people who practice these and similar satanic arts or worship Satan (Leviticus 19:31; cf. 1 Samuel 28)
 - iii. Depending on horoscopes or similar ways to foretell the future (Ecclesiastes 7:14)
 - d. What is lying and deceiving by God's name?
 - i. Teaching false doctrine and saying that it is God's Word or revelation (Deuteronomy 12:32; Jeremiah 23:31; Matthew 15:9; cf. 1 Kings 13:11-30)
 - ii. Covering up an unbelieving heart or a sinful life by pretending to be a Christian (Matthew 7:21; Matthew 15:8; cf. Matthew 23:13-30; Acts 5:1-11)
4. What does God require of us in the Second Commandment?
 - a. We should call upon His name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks (Psalm 50:15; Psalm 103:1; Psalm 118:1; John 16:23; Ephesians 5:20; cf. Luke 17:11-13, 15-16; 1 Samuel 1—2; Luke 1:46-55; Luke 1:68-79)