



Thank you for downloading
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the
CQ Rewind FULL EDITION at no charge, simply sign up at
www.ChristianQuestions.net.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



Are WE Taking God's Name in Vain?

Exodus 20:7: (NKJV) "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."

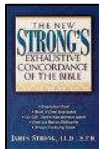
In general conversation, we often hear people use the name of Jesus and the name of God in very inappropriate ways. The sad thing is that it is so common we may sometimes not even notice it, or we may dismiss it without a second thought. Are these phrases disrespectful? Yes. Are they unfortunate? Yes. The question is - is this what is meant by taking the Lord's name in vain or is there more to it? Is taking the Lord's name in vain an obvious thing, or is it something that can happen in much more subtle ways? Is it possible for those of us who claim to take the name of God seriously to actually take His name in vain? Stay with us as we seek clarity in understanding just what is meant by this commandment to not take His name in vain.

Questions for consideration:

1. What is the name of the "LORD your God"?
2. What does it mean to "take" His name in "vain"?
3. How might we fall into taking His name in vain?

1. What is the name of the "LORD your God"?

Exodus 20:7: (NKJV) "You shall not take the name of the LORD <3068> your God <430> in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."



LORD: Strong's #3068 Yehovah (yeh-ho-vaw'); (the) Self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah, Jewish national name of God:

God: Strong's #430 'elohiym (el-o-heem'); gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates (rulers)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5: (ASV) "⁴Hear, O Israel: **Jehovah <3068>** our **God <430>** is one **Jehovah <3068>**; ⁵and thou shalt love **Jehovah <3068>** thy **God <430>** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Malachi 3:6: (ASV) "For I, **Jehovah <3068>**, change not; therefore ye, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

The Self-Existent One (God needs nothing externally in order to exist) does not change, which is very comforting.

As we begin to develop this understanding of God's name, it will become clear that the name represents the character. God's name is mighty and sacred.

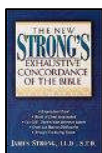
The loftiness of God:

Isaiah 55:8-11: In Biblical times, the name (or renaming) of something held great meaning. This Isaiah scripture describes to us that God is approachable if we look up.

Psalms 102:24-27: There is a difference between the unchangeable Creator and the created. This is the God we must utterly respect.

The sacredness of His name:

Matthew 6:9: (KJV) "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, **Hallowed <37>** be thy name."



Hallow: Strong's #37 hagiazo (hag-ee-ad'-zo); to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate: (holding sacred with honor and respect)



1 Peter 3:15: (KJV) "But **sanctify** <37> the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

"Sanctify" (setting apart for a holy purpose) here is the same word as "hallow."

Vanity gets in the way of hallowing God's name, because you hallow "self" instead.

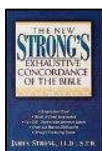
The worthiness of God: Mark 12:28-34 Jesus answered the question in a bigger way than the questioner asked by quoting the Old Testament. We venerate God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Hallowed be the Name of God;

"Hollow" be the name of the gods of this world!

2. What does it mean to "take" His name in "vain"?

Whenever we mention the name of God, it should be done in an utterly respectful manner.

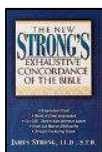


Take: Strongs #5375 nasa' (naw-saw'); or nacah to lift, in a great variety of applications to life up, to take, to carry, bare up, etc.

As we look at a few examples of this word, notice the intention behind the meaning:
Genesis 7:17 Exodus 6:8

This gives us a sense of carrying; a sense of intention. Psalms 24:1-10

This compares the individual who has not lifted up his soul to an idol. What do we hold sacred? To "take" seems to mean to carry something with intention as opposed to carrying something without thought.



Vain: Strongs #7723 shav' (shawv); or shav (shav); desolating; evil (as destructive), literally (ruin) or morally (especially guile); figuratively idolatry (as false, subjective), uselessness

Some Old Testament examples of the use of "vain"

Exodus 23:1: (KJV) "Thou shalt not **raise** <5375> a **false** <7723> report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness."

Deuteronomy 5:20: "Neither shalt thou bear **false** <7723> witness against thy neighbour."

Taking God's name in vain is to hold it in a false way, without meaning.

Psalms 127:1: "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in **vain** <7723> that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in **vain** <7723>."

Jonah 2:1-9: (KJV) "¹Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, ²And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. ³For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. ⁴Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. ⁵The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. ⁶I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. ⁷When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. ⁸They that observe lying **vanities** <7723> forsake their own mercy. ⁹But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."



Jonah followed what he wanted to do and now he is stuck as a result of his own actions. He was focusing on his own vanity and he did not hold up the name of God. He asked for forgiveness. This gives us a sense of the importance of holding God's name in sacredness and not in vain. Vain seems to be an incorrect application of something that brings you to wasted time and effort.

To combine the meaning of both words in our theme text:

Exodus 20:7: (NKJV) "*You shall not take the name of the **LORD** <3068> your **God** <430> in vain, for the **LORD** will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*"

You go about intentionally carrying and using the name of God, but you apply that sacred name in grossly inappropriate ways, which brings you nothing but guilt before God. If we claim to be a Christian, do our actions reflect carrying God's name with sacredness or do they reflect carrying God's name in vain? We are commissioned to carry the name and will of God. Don't carry it thoughtlessly, being careless about it.

3. How might WE fall into taking His name in vain?

God knows what's in our hearts and sees all of our actions. For us to say we are one thing but do another thing, if what we are doing is not God-honoring, we are taking His name in vain. It is difficult because it requires each of us to look in the mirror and say, "Am I falling into the disobedience of this commandment?"

Here are some ways we may take God's name in vain, other than simply with words:

IDOLATRY

Idolatry is putting the created before the Creator. Our view of life becomes distorted.

Isaiah 42:8 2 Corinthians 6:14 The word for "unbeliever" in this Scripture is the same as idolatry. It doesn't have to be an actual image - it can be a mental image. The moment we idolize the created over the Creator, we run into trouble. This is an example of taking God's name in vain by our actions.

HYPOCRISY

Matthew 6:1-9

Jesus teaches us how to carry God's name with sacredness and not in a thoughtless manner.

1. Do we make sure that everybody can see what we are giving?
2. Are we praying on the street corner so everyone can see how pious we are? Are we lifting up God's name or our own?
3. Are our prayers full of vain repetition? Are they flowery for the sake of an audience? Are they merely based on our own emotion, our own situation - only about me, me, me?

Mark 7:5-8: The Pharisees taught traditions but not sacredness. Is our Christian belief based on what is convenient? Do we walk through the Doctrinal Buffet Line and "load up" on only those things most appealing?

PRIDE - (LACK OF SOBRIETY)

Mark 10:17-25: This is a great example of pride getting in the way. This man put wealth above God, and it was not a price he was willing to pay.

Is what we have the source of our truest personal value? Matthew 18:4 Matthew 23:12
It says we have to "humble ourselves." Experiences can humble us, but we must humble ourselves - one could even start to brag about one's own difficult experiences!

Humility **MUST** be important - both James and Peter quote the same text: James 4:6-10
1 Peter 5:5-9



GREED

Do we honor God, yet secretly want the honor for ourselves?

Lucifer wanted what was out of his reach. Isaiah 14:12-15

Do we hold back our sacrifice for the sake of self-preservation? Acts 5:1-11 1 Timothy 6:1-10

We want to focus on words that lift up and are based on the Bible. Are we focusing on the convenient parts of Christianity rather than the sacrificial parts - doing what God would have you to do, even if it is at a personal cost? When something of difficulty is required of us, do we rationalize it down or do we pay that which we ought to pay in terms of the experience?

Why are we Christian?? Philippians 4:10-13

Finally, what about our words: James 3:3-5: We need to filter what we think and say. Our words are a representation of what is in our hearts. Matthew 12:33-37

We have the choice as to how we react to a circumstance. We can learn from the past and analyze why our conscience allowed the reaction to come through.

To avoid taking God's name in vain, focus on the worthiness of God.

Mark 12:28-34: Focus on this and the idolatry of vanity that gets in the way will get put aside. Realize it and replace it.

Psalms 63:1-4: This is a Scripture of perspective, showing us where we need to be in our thoughts, hearts, minds and conscience. When God is at the "top of our list," we can focus on holding God's name with sacredness and honor on a day-by-day basis.

*So are WE taking God's name in vain?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

