

## RULES TO LIVE BY!

### 4. Don't Misuse God's Name



#### Introduction

We have been looking at the Ten Commandments that God gave to His people. The first three commands tell us about our relationship with God. We have already seen that we are to have no other gods before Him, and we are not to make any image to represent Him, or have anything in our hearts in place of Him. The third command tells us not to misuse His name, and we will study this now.

#### Scripture Reading:      **Deuteronomy 5:6-11**

- ❶ God told His people not to misuse His name. What is the significance of God's name? Share your thoughts.
- ❷ What does God's Word say about His name in the following verses: Psalm 8:1, Psalm 99:3, Matthew 6:9, Joel 2:32, Acts 4:12, Philippians 2:9
- ❸ What is one way we can misuse God's name according to Leviticus 19:12? How does that apply to us today?

*(We misuse His name when we swear falsely by His name. In the court in some countries a witness has to place his hand on the Bible and swear to tell the truth. If he does not, he is swearing falsely using God's name. It is also wrong to say to others, "I didn't do ... I swear in God's name", if this is not the truth. It is misusing His name.)*

This is what the Children of Israel were doing in the time of Jeremiah the prophet. Read Jeremiah 5:1-2. Some years ago a President of the United States was impeached because he lied under oath. According to Jeremiah 7:9 this is 'perjury'. This is misusing God's name.

- ❹ What does Jesus say regarding the third commandment in Matthew 5:33-37? What does He mean?

*(Jesus says we should not need to swear in God's name at all! Our yes should be yes and our no should be no. Our words should be truth all the time!)*

- ❺ Sadly it has become very common for people to use God's name as a curse word or as a swearing word. How should we as Christians act when we are people who do this? Discuss.

#### Conclusion

Our names are part of us and they identify us. Some of us have been given names by our parents that have meanings, or have been in the family for generations.

However God's name is far more than this. His names reveal WHO He is, they reveal His character and His attributes, and there is power and authority in His name. This is why God answers when we pray in 'Jesus' name'. His name has power!

When a person misuses God's name, they are showing great disrespect for God Himself. Let's always honor His name and use it with reverence. Philippians 2:10 says "At the NAME of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Amen!