

Elder Bono

Honoring the Name of the Lord: You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain

Theme: The Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:7

Sermon Link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/qiY-9tZA8gk>

Date of Sermon: 10/25/2026 • Main Passage: Exodus 20:7

Summary and Highlights

Opening Context — Elder Bono expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share God's Word and thanked the congregation for supporting the Ramirez family during his hiatus. He noted that Pastor Harry had begun the series on the Ten Commandments (no other gods; no idols). Today's focus is the Third Commandment: revering the name of the Lord. To revere means to deeply respect, admire, and honor. The Ten Commandments are not random restrictions but guardrails for a real relationship with God. They protect our hearts and provide a baseline for living that honors Him and others.

The Command – Exodus 20:7 — “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.” God's name represents His character, authority, holiness, and reputation. When we speak it, we speak of the One who created heaven and earth, delivered Israel from Egypt, sent His Son to die on Calvary, and holds our lives in His hands. His name is not common; it is holy.

Ways We Take God's Name in Vain

- When we use it carelessly. The word “vain” points to empty, worthless, false, or without proper purpose. It includes more than using God's name as a curse word—empty, insincere, or deceptive use such as false oaths or misrepresenting His character. We treat something heaven treats as holy as ordinary when we use His name in anger, frustration, or casually. Psalm 111:9: “Holy and awesome is His name.” We cannot praise God on Sunday and dishonor His name the rest of the week.
- When we claim His authority but do not obey His Word. Matthew 7:21 warns that not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom—only those who do the will of the Father. It is possible to speak Christian language without living according to Scripture, to say “God told me” when He did not, or to make promises in His name and break them. Illustration: Elder Bono and Claudia experienced forged checks using their name. We must never put God's “signature” on our own opinions. Deuteronomy 18:20 warns against presumptuously speaking a word in God's name He has not commanded.
- When our lives contradict the name we profess. A person can avoid curse words and still fail to honor His name through conduct. When we call ourselves Christians we identify with Christ; our lives should reflect the One whose name we bear. Titus 1:16 describes those who profess to know God but deny Him by their deeds. Illustration of a church marquee saying “Come and experience the love of Jesus,” yet the people inside are hateful or dishonest. Matthew 5:16 says our good works should cause people to glorify our Father in heaven. When we fail, the answer is to repent and allow God to change us (1 John 1:9).

The Greatness of His Name — God's name is not merely something to avoid misusing; it is a name to honor, worship, and cherish. Philippians 2:9-11 declares that God highly exalted Jesus and bestowed on Him the name above every name, so that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The name of Jesus is the name of our Savior who was mocked, beaten, nailed to the cross, shed His blood, was buried, and rose again. Psalm 8:1: “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!” We should actively seek to glorify it.

Closing Challenge — Is His name honored in your life? Ask: Have I been careless with the name of the Lord? Have I used God's name to support something He never said? Does my life reflect the character of the Savior I claim to follow? Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God." God's name is too holy to be used carelessly, too precious to be used falsely, and too wonderful to be dishonored by our lives. Illustration: Gabe wearing a "Team Jesus" jersey. When we call ourselves Christians we bear the name of Christ. We should never wear the name of Christ with our mouths and deny Him with our lives.

Key Takeaway — Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain—whether by careless speech, false claims of His authority, or a life that contradicts the name we profess. God's name represents His holiness, character, and the salvation provided through Jesus Christ. Honor it in your words, worship, and walk. When we fail, repent (1 John 1:9); God is faithful to forgive and cleanse. Live so that your life points others to Him and brings glory to His name.

Plan of Salvation — God is holy; every person is a sinner deserving judgment (Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23). In love God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who lived sinlessly, died for our sins, and rose again (Isaiah 53:5–6; 1 Cor. 15:3–4; 2 Cor. 5:21). Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, not by works (Eph. 2:8–9; Titus 3:5). God calls us to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus as Savior and Lord (Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9–10, 13). All who trust Christ are forgiven, declared righteous, born again, adopted, and given eternal life (John 1:12–13; 3:16; Romans 5:1; 8:1).

A Prayer of Salvation — Heavenly Father, I know I am a sinner and cannot save myself. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son, that He lived a sinless life, died for my sins, and rose again. Today I turn from my sin and trust Jesus alone as my Savior and Lord. Forgive my sins, give me a new heart, and help me follow You. Thank You for Your grace and the gift of eternal life. I confess Jesus as Lord and receive Him by faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, please contact us: Laveen Baptist Church • 5036 W. Dobbins Rd, Laveen, AZ 85339 • 602-237-4885 • lbc@laveenbaptistchurch.org • laveenbaptistchurch.org