



Sinai Code 3 - *What is in a Name?* {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

Many people think that the third commandment is simply warning us not to use God's name in anger. Yet the original intent of this command was to prevent people from attaching God's name to purposes that are not His. God knew people would misuse His name to advance their own agendas. The danger is that when we misuse the name of God, we are in danger of missing God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the past, how have you understood the command "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain" (KJV)?
2. When people think about your name (your reputation, your character) what do you want them to associate you with (i.e. honest, fun-loving, hard-working)?
3. What are the characteristics you associate with God's name (His reputation, His character)?
4. An example of misusing the name of God can be found in Luke 19:45-46. What can we learn from this example?
5. In Mark 7:5-13 Jesus condemns the Pharisees' traditions and rules. How does religion encourage the misuse of God's name?
6. Can you think of any examples in history of misusing the name of God? What can we learn from these examples?
7. Can you think of any examples in your life of people or groups who have misused the name of God?

8. When have you misused the name of God by doing what you wanted to do and then hiding behind God's name?

9. What are the dangers of misusing God's name?

THINK ABOUT IT

What are the games you are playing? How are you insulting God by trying to play Him against Himself?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

The best thing for you to do is to be honest. It's not like God doesn't know what you are doing. Even if you are not intent on changing at the moment, God desires a relationship more than obedience. How will you be honest with God this week?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." Exodus 20:7 (NIV)

