

THE BOUNDARY OF USING GOD'S NAME

- Intro:** - Where is God's Name most misused? Is it amongst the heathen who carelessly blaspheme that glorious name?
 - Or is God's Name horribly profaned by his own people in their words and their works? Malachi charges God's people!
 - As the church of Jesus Christ, we take this commandment seriously, desiring to guard God's precious name.

I. THE SIN WARNED AGAINST.

- A. Comprehending what God's name is.
1. It is whatever makes God known to people. God's name is his revelation of himself to us.
 2. It is that speech of God whereby we speak to God or about God.
 3. God's name is first of all his proper names, names that he has given himself to reveal himself to us.
 4. God's name is all the truth of God.
 5. God's name is the Scriptures.
- B. The sin of blasphemy.
1. It literally is "to speak evil about God".
 2. All around us there is the cursing that takes place, heathen using God's name to express amazement, disgust, or anger.
 3. There is the perjury of God's name in the courts of the land.
 4. There are the oaths and vows taken that are carelessly thrown aside when they become difficult to carry out.
- C. The many forms of blasphemy or taking God's name in vain:
1. When a person speaks evilly of the truth of God in any way.
 2. When the Gospel is rejected when it is preached.
 3. When the church becomes guilty of heresy.
 4. When believers speak evilly about one another.
 5. When we speak casually or carelessly about God.
 6. When believers treat the worship of God as miserable and useless.
 7. When believers become immune or desensitized to the blasphemy of God's name around them.

II. THE PROPER USE OF THE NAME:

- A. The use of God's name is guarded so that it may be spoken!
1. We should consciously think of the meaning of the particular name of God that we are using when calling upon him.
 2. We should reflect on God's attributes and works when we enter his house to praise him.
 3. We speak that name in love and reverence.
 4. We stand up in the midst of the congregation and confess that he is our God and Redeemer.
 4. Gladly we talk about our God to our family, loved ones, and those God places around us at work or neighborhood.
 5. All of our conversation should reflect that we love the Lord.
- B. This commandment lays claim to the kind of life that we live.
1. The Catechism says that God must be "glorified in all our words and works."
 2. Paul lays forth the kind of life that must be taught to God's people in Titus 2 that others "have no evil thing to say of you."
 3. Paul says employees must honor their masters "that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed (I Tim. 6:1)."
 4. Doctrine and life cannot be separated.
- C. This command requires us to speak to defend God's name.
1. We may not be silent when others profane God's name.
 2. In Lev. 24, the people of God that heard the blasphemer put their hands on his head (vs. 14) returning his sin to him.
 3. The people of God cannot always do that, so the Catechism says, "as much as in us lies..."
 4. But more often than not, the matter is one of our willingness to do so, rather than inability or wisdom.
 5. Do we defend the truths of our church, or remain silent or shrug our shoulders when we hear heretical speech?

III. THE REASON THAT WE GUARD THE USE OF GOD'S NAME:

- A. God's name is a holy name.
1. Ps. 99:3 "The LORD is great in Zion; ...Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy."
 2. Ps. 103:1 "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."
 3. Because God's name is set apart, the Lord demands that we reverence his name
 4. "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." (Ps. 29:2)
 5. How we worship: how we give, how we sing, how we listen, how we pray is very important in bringing glory to God's name.
- B. God is a jealous God who will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
1. The Catechism says that there is no in greater or more provoking to God!
 2. God has commanded this sin to be punished with death. (Lev. 24:15)
 3. This does not mean that everyone who commits this sin goes to hell.
 4. How wonderful that the blood of Jesus Christ flowed for his people to wash away all of our sins of commission & omission.
- C. As God's people, we love God's name.
1. We seek to obey this command because we are delivered and separated by Christ's redeeming work.
 2. He came to separate us from all cursing and swearing.
 3. We are a holy people who desire to have holy lips and holy lives and holy worship that pleases and glorifies God.
 4. God is God! He alone must be worshipped, worshipped as he has commanded, and his name used with reverence & awe.