

**Exodus 20:7**  
God's Holy Name

*Consecrated lives ...*

I. God's Great Name

- A. Holy
- B. Significant

II. Revered

- A. Hallowed
- B. Amidst Unclean Lips

III. Declared

- A. Praised
- B. Proclaimed

*... sanctified tongues*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. What is the third commandment?
2. Why is God's name so important? Can you think of different names for God?
3. What can you do to keep from using names for God in bad ways?
4. How should you use the names of God in good ways?
5. If we are going to call Jesus our "Lord," must we be willing to do what He says?

**Heidelberg Catechism**  
Lord's Days 36 & 37

**99. Q. What is required in the third commandment?**

A. We are not to blaspheme or to abuse the Name of God by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths, nor to share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders. In short, we must use the holy Name of God only with fear and reverence, so that we may rightly confess Him, call upon Him, and praise Him in all our words and works.

**100. Q. Is the blaspheming of God's Name by swearing and cursing such a grievous sin that God is angry also with those who do not prevent and forbid it as much as they can?**

A. Certainly, for no sin is greater or provokes God's wrath more than the blaspheming of His Name. That is why He commanded it to be punished with death.

**101. Q. But may we swear an oath by the Name of God in a godly manner?**

A. Yes, when the government demands it of its subjects, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote fidelity and truth, to God's glory and for our neighbor's good. Such oath-taking is based on God's Word and was therefore rightly used by saints in the Old and the New Testament.

**102. Q. May we also swear by saints or other creatures?**

A. No. A lawful oath is a calling upon God, who alone knows the heart, to bear witness to the truth, and to punish me if I swear falsely. No creature is worthy of such honor.