

# EXODUS 20:7

**YOU MUST NOT  
MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD.**

## Question:

**088 - QUOTATION QUESTION. Which of the Ten Commandments prohibits cursing and swearing?**

*Exodus 20:7 "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God."*

## King James Version:

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;

## New International Version:

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God,

## The Message:

No using the name of GOD, your God, in curses or silly banter;

## The Voice:

You are not to use My name for *your own* idle purposes,

## Definitions & Synonyms

**Prohibits:** forbids, prevent, restrict

**Cursing:** insulting, disrespectful, profane

**Swearing:** profanity, four-letter word

**Misuse:** mistreat, waste, wrongly use

**The name:** stand for, character, meaning

**Lord your God:** our creator, big guy in charge.

## Words (God's Name)

God says not to misuse His name or take His name in vain. How is saying, "Oh, my God!" or "Jesus Christ!" when you're excited or mad about something misusing God's name and taking His name in vain?

It's misusing God's name and taking His name in vain when we say His name, but we're not really talking to Him or about Him.

We need to respect God, and one way we can show respect to God is to only use His name when we're talking to Him or about Him. We can't just say God's name like it's any other word. God's name is special because God is special, and we must show respect to Him.

Another way people take God's name in vain is when they say they're a Christian – they call themselves by Jesus' title of Christ – but they don't change their life. People can't just say they believe. They must live it. It's misusing God's name to say that God is part of your life when He really isn't.

The Bible instructs to use the name of Jesus in everything with thanksgiving. Colossians 3:17 tells how Christians should do all things. "*And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.*" Use the name of the Lord Jesus in all we and not in vain.