

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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Are You Taking the Name of the Lord in Vain?

Who Me? ... Never

You've heard the commandment "...thou shall not take the name of the Lord in vain ..." as quoted in the King's English. Or in more contemporary English "You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain. For the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." (Ex. 20:7 TEB*) Wow, pretty heavy, huh?

The Hebrew rendering of this use of the term "vain" is "shav" referencing the terms "ruin, idolatry, false or deceptive." According to *The New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary*, we find the following definitions for the term "vain:" "failing to produce the desired results;" or "... to take someone's name in vain is to speak about someone without proper respect."

If you ask someone what this commandment means, you'll probably hear something to the order of "...we are not to speak the Lord's name idly, use it as profanity, or use it to express disgust." I do not assume anything structurally wrong with the familiar interpretation of this commandment. I actually agree with this interpretation.

Even so, years ago, I asked the Lord what He meant by

Taking the Name ... Vain

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The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

Applying All Biblical Principles to Our Marriage Relationships

Were you aware that many Christians do not know how to apply general biblical principles to their marriage relationships? It's true. Most of us have been taught that the only scriptures we are to apply to our marriages are the ones that specifically speak to husbands and wives. This, however, is a fallacy that has long held the church and all of society in bondage.

In Ephesians 5:21-32 (KJV by reference) it tells us that the marriage relationship is a human representation of spiritual redemption and the relationship each believer has with Christ. In the marriage the husband represents Christ and his role is to love, care for, provide for, listen to, and encourage the wife so that she can fulfill her role, just as Christ provides everything the church needs to fulfill its role in the earth. This is why men are wired to be "providers."

The wife is the administrator in the marriage, family, and household. She uses her administrative skills to ensure that processes are set in place that bring about positive and desired results in the marriage, family, and household (just as the Church administers the grace, love, and attributes of God in the earth). In the marriage, the wife has to make the conscious decision to submit (come under authority) to her husband just as the Church consciously yields to the authority of Christ.

This does not mean that the wife is less than the husband or that the husband is better or smarter than the wife, or vice versa. In Galatians 3:28 (KJV by reference) it tells us that there is no difference between men and women, as far as God is concerned. These role assignments epitomize both how Christ relates to the Church and how believers interact with Jesus Christ. Also, this human arrangement (only valid within the marriage relationship) is a powerful tool for the intimate types of ministry that God can do when marriages are yielded to him.

Now, let's get back to the first point about how we, as leaders, need to learn how to effectively apply all Biblical principles to our marriage relationships. In II Timothy 3:15-17 (KJV by reference), the Bible tells us that all scripture is to be used to guide us in our daily lives. This means we can and should apply the principles of every scripture to our personal lives and relationships, beginning with our marriages.

Here is an example. In II Thessalonians 1:10-11 (KJV by reference) Paul encouraged the church as they were facing trials and tribulations. He also let them know that God wants to be glorified and admired while they were enduring adversity. One way this is done is by making a conscious effort to bring our "issues" in subjection to God and His Word. As we apply this principle in our marriages, we would understand that when we face difficulty as a couple, God wants us to work together (and bring the issues to Him) to address all of our challenges. By doing so, we (as a couple) get the answers we need, draw closer together, and allow God to be glorified in our marriage. In addition, others will admire what they see in our marriage relationship. As a result, God is then able to use our marriages as ministry tools for others.

As you continue to grow in the grace of God, I encourage you to commit to apply ALL Biblical principles (properly interpreted) to your marriage relationship so that God can use it to bless others.



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this commandment. It somehow seemed, to me, to have a much deeper meaning than just that. Some time later (as it is the custom of God to respond to my inquiries when I am in a better position to hear Him), the Lord answered me, by pointing it out in my own life. He showed that the spirit of the commandment was along these lines: that to name the name of Christ, or to call yourself by His name while living a life that is contrary or that does not represent what He died for, is to take His name in vain." It is to falsely represent Him. It is to deceive others into believing that such incongruent behavior is indicative of a lifestyle that is Christ-centered. It is to live a life that does not produce His desired results. It is a violation of the second commandment. If we fracture the second commandment, we've broken the whole law.

"... Let every one that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Tim 2:19 KJV) The Greek rendering of this use of the term "iniquity" is "adikia" which is interpreted "injustice" in the legal sense; and is interpreted "wrongfulness of life, character or actions" in a moral sense.

Here are a few directives for a servant of the Lord: *Do not put yourself in a position to be overcome by youthful lusts or passions; govern your environment and affairs according to righteousness, faith, love and peace. Or the servant of the Lord must not strive or be combative; but be gentle to all men.* (2 Tim 2:22, 24 KJV extrapolated) How does your life accord with these simple directives? And we haven't even gotten to the Ten Commandments. Do you often find yourself in violation of them in some form? How then can we properly represent Christ when we won't bring ourselves in compliance with our Lord's directives? Answer: "We cannot."

The Lord fully expects that if we say we are His; that our thoughts, our words, and our actions will be representative of the laws and principles that governed His life; without exception. If this is not the case, then we are deluding ourselves into thinking that He certainly cannot mean what He has said.

Perspective is everything ... If you tell your children to finish their chores before leaving for a social event; only to arrive home later to find that they have, both, left and that their chores have not been done. How do you feel? Disrespected perhaps ... unappreciated, maybe? Whatever may be your response, it is not likely that you'll feel "warm and fuzzy," by this omission. And you're only the "parent." Now, "zoom out" see a loving Almighty God; ... Creator of heaven

and earth; ... Who died for our sins ... you get the picture. What must be His assessment of us when we disregard His directives and choose our own ways? Whatever is His assessment; one thing is sure, all violations will receive the full weight of the law.

Not only does He mean what He has said; but He is so serious about this that He has attached a penalty to violations or other non-compliance. He says that our guilt will not be excused.

This month, I encourage you to examine your heart and your life. (2 Cor. 13:5 KJV by reference) How does it accord with what the Lord requires of us?

It is not too late to change.

*The Evidence Bible compiled by Ray Comfort

JoAnn C. White, sMHG

DIAMONDS



He is not wise, who believes that there is One God. He is wise, who loves and obeys Him.



He is not holy who agrees with the truths of the Bible. He is holy who lives them.



JoAnn C. White

Fire of Another Color

By David L. White

First, it is wise to recognize the relationship between godly principles and earthly phenomena.

The bible tells us that “the whole earth is filled with His glory.”(Isa 6:3) To me, this means that everything God created, speaks to us about Him and his principles. With that in mind I began to look at 'fire'.

If you do a little research on fire you will find that fire can produce all of the colors of visible light. It can also produce some infrared light.

As fire goes, the color red is cooler moving on a continuum toward hotter violet; with white being the hottest.

The Lord tells us that “He is like a refiner's fire.”(Mal 3:2) He tells us that he will purify us with fire; like silver and gold.

As I was cooking this concept really began to set in and inspire further research. I noticed that the fire from my stove was blue and orange. Whenever most people think of fire these are the colors they usually think of; blue and orange. You see, we generally only look for one or two colors of fire; though fire can produce any color in the visible spectrum.

Now let’s look at *fire* as represented by our trials and tribulations; we can see how this problem of ours is both natural and spiritual. Let’s also consider that the color spectrum has both visible and invisible bandwidths and that fire is represented by all of its colors.

We then understand how that we can easily see certain trials afar off; whereas others we can barely see, or not at all. For instance, I know that, at some point, my 14-year-old car will become something of a trial for me. But when one of the tires, which are not nearly as old, blows unexpectedly, and without any puncturing; I may not recognize God's hand in that. Likewise, I may recognize that my new job is going to be, at some points, a trial for me; but I may

not look at the providence of God in my problems with a co-worker.

Now when the fire is red/orange, or cooler, we can usually rest in the Lord. We know that God is with us and is only purifying us. However, when fire gets white hot; we seem to stop considering that God is still there.

Let's get back to fire in general, and see how its peculiarities compare and contrast to our own circumstances. Note that a different color fire almost always denotes a different temperature. In my research I also found that the fire varies in color and temperature because of the material burned and the impurities present.

- Understand the *material* as the *person* being tried (our make up, preferences, predispositions, idiosyncrasies, etc).
- The *fire* is the *trial or circumstance* itself (whether from our job, co-worker, husband, wife, family, friends, finances, children, etc).
- The *impurities* are our *imperfections* (our habits, secrets, and predispositions **among many other things**).

The color and temperature of the fire will change based on the *material* (person) or the *impurities* (imperfections) being tried. Two people can experience the same series of events; same fire (for instance regarding a co-worker). Based on their differing characteristics, their *fires* will vary in both temperature and color. A person with a cool temperament will give off a red fire, when tried. Whereas a person with a hot temperament will give off a white fire when tried.

Here are a few examples:

- A trial dealing with drugs would have little to no effect on me; because I don't have a predisposition towards drugs. The fire of that temptation would **not** be very intense, bordering on infrared (invisible) in fact.
- Now a trial dealing with worldly ambition would have a greater effect in me. That fire would be much hotter.
- In an effort to be transparent, trials of a sexual nature, for most men, would probably register somewhere near pure white; or bordering ultra-violet.
- Rush hour traffic is another test/trial. Displays of road-rage may depict an imperfection. The

traffic is only the spark; but the fire burns violet in many people.

What are we to do, as God uses these trials to purify us? I would say, first recognize that God hasn't gone anywhere in your trying fires. The fire **only** gets as hot as is needed to remove that impurity in you. It would do us good to see God's providence as much in the white hot fires as in the red fires. If we would recognize that God's refining fire comes in all types of situations, and people; then we can more truly appreciate his sanctifying work in us. <✠>

The research for fire was done on www.wikipedia.com

JEWELS



If we once get above our Bibles, and cease making the written word of God our sole rule both as to faith and practice, we shall soon lie open to all manner of delusion, and be in great danger of making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience.

Our blessed Lord, though He had the Spirit of God without measure, yet always was governed by and fought the devil with, "It is written."

George Whitefield (1714-1769) *Walking with God* – taken from Whitefield Gold - Pure. Refined compiled by Ray Comfort (2006, p.14)




A Journey to Intimacy

Getting to Know Him

The Journey Continues

I never cease to be amazed at the grace and patience of God.

Of late, I have found myself at the foot of the Throne repenting, on more than one occasion. I don't mind saying that I can identify with the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears.

I'll share one event, in particular.

Earlier this month, I received an email communication from a gentleman. This communication was marred by tones of professional disrespect and reckless disregard for his audience; me and my team being the target of that conversation. I'm sure you can appreciate the shades of red ... more like crimson ... I saw.

That aside, I proceeded to (as I coin a new phrase) "symphonically orchestrate" as tactful a response as I could muster under the circumstances. Three days later ... okay an hour later, I sent a reply that began with these words.

"The tone of your email could, in some cases, be construed as offensive; I'll assume this was not your intention. However, I'll take this opportunity to ask that you maintain an acceptable level of professional decorum when communicating with me or my team."

The balance of the response was equally tactful. While it did somewhat assuage the damage done, I still needed to vent. The audacity of some people Immediately upon sending the response, I went to one of the young ladies on my team. Having seen the original communication herself; needless to say she was willing to engage the conversation. We talked for about 20 minutes or so.

The foregone, having been a bit comical; the following is not so much so.

As I finished the conversation with the young lady; I felt a "tap on my back" as it were. **It was the Lord.** He was

not happy with me at all; and boy did I know it.

He promptly reminded me of a directive that He had given me some years ago. I recalled it as He reminded me. The term "ashamed" does not encompass the similitude of what I felt. Even now, writing about it I still sense the gravity of the event.

Some time ago, the Lord had given me this directive:

I am your #1 confidante. If you have been wronged and need to vent, etc. come to Me, FIRST. Deal with the situation before Me, FIRST. (I later came to understand His reasoning for this.)

I had not done that in this case. I was wrong; I repented with much anguish and tears.

I again received specific directions for these types of situations:

- 1) I understand that I am to discuss these situations with God FIRST.
- 2) I am not to discuss them with anyone else, unless & until He has given me the proper perspective on the matter.

On the face of it; this event may not seem so disastrous; which is why it is imperative that we judge, according to God's judgments. Because, all the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but God weighs the spirits. (Prov. 16:2 KJV) Well, He had weighed my spirit, in this matter, and I was found lacking. (Dan. 5:27 KJV by reference)

Here is the gravity of the error. I had placed myself before God. The Lord had given me a command, and I did what felt natural to me. I chose my own way. I didn't even stop to consider Him along the way. Although I was not conscious of it at the time of the event, I had dishonored Him. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). Anything or anyone that we honor or obey before God is idolatry. Trust me what God does to idols is not pretty (Isa. 2:18). You do not want to have one and you certainly do not want to be one (2 Cor. 10:14). They are an abomination to God.

As has been driven home to me quite firmly, when the Lord tells us what to do, say or be; we are obliged to "lay up His words in our hearts. We have a responsibility to both remember and to do them.

Again, perspective is everything ... have you ever

been driving along a road, and thought “what is the speed limit here?” You begin to look along the side of the road for the sign, but do not see one for some time. If a police officer pulls you over, for driving in excess of the speed limit; you are in violation of the ordinance. It doesn’t matter whether the sign was a mile ... or two miles back. As a legal driver, we have a responsibility to know the speed limits or at least drive at a speed that is suitable for the area. In many instances, the state does not take the responsibility to post a speed limit every two blocks, so that you don’t forget the law.

I encourage you (as I too am encouraged) to align yourself with the precepts of God. The encumbrance is upon us to both know and do according to His commands.

God speed.



JoAnn C. White, SMHG

JEWELS



Had I a hundred hands, I could employ them all. The harvest is very great. I am ashamed I can do no more for Him who has done so much for me.

(George Whitefield, Tyerman, Vol 1, p273) taken from Whitefield Gold - Pure. Refined compiled by Ray Comfort (2006, p. xxxvii)



SUMMARY



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The Leadership Corner –Leadership Living, Inc

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