



the rock

HONORING GOD'S NAME

NOT JUST A NAME

By Rick Anthony

“. . . and last, but not least, I would like to thank God. Without His help this award would not have been possible!”

“That is really impressive,” Tyrone’s father said. “It must take guts for a performer of his status to recognize God on a worldwide awards show.” Tyrone was pumped at the thought that his dad approved of his favorite performer. Music had never been a point of agreement in their relationship. His father continued, “I would like to hear some of his music.”

“Sure, I’ve got everything he’s ever done. He has a new one coming out soon . . .” Tyrone stopped mid sentence as he realized what was about to happen. If his dad heard all of the swearing, he would hit the ceiling. “But I don’t think it will be

all that good. Let’s see what else is on.” Tyrone quickly grabbed the remote and changed the channel.

“Surely we’re not going to watch that movie,” Tyrone’s dad responded at the first channel Tyrone stopped on. “Every other word is a cussword. I don’t think we heard the Lord’s name that many times last Sunday in church! We

definitely didn’t hear it used in that context! I don’t understand why they have to do that.”

Tyrone quickly changed the channel, which served to halt the lecture his dad had begun.

“In the name of Jesus I command . . .”

Neither Tyrone nor his dad said anything as the television

evangelist commanded all types of things. With each command he used the name of Jesus in such a way that it seemed he was ordering the Lord around. Even though nothing was said, Tyrone knew he and his dad were remembering the same thing—the most recent scandal the evangelist was accused of.

Tyrone was relieved when his cell phone rang. It was Shantell from church.

Rock

El Shaddai

Shield

He told her about the near miss with the awards show and the potential for having his music censored.

“I’ve been telling you that it’s wrong for you to listen to that stuff!” Shantell replied. “I only listen to Christian music. It really keeps me closer to God. You should do the same—I’ve been telling you that for years.

You need to clean up what you’re putting in your mind!”

Tyrone couldn’t help thinking that Shantell was probably right; after all, when she talked about God it seemed to be in the right way. She didn’t talk about God just to get applause or in a cussing fashion, nor did she use the name of Jesus as if it were a magic word to get God to do what she wanted. Of course, she did struggle with other things like talking about other people to anyone she can get to listen. She was respectful of God and His name but was not always respectful of others. That didn’t seem consistent.

As he lay in bed that evening, Tyrone couldn’t help thinking about what it meant to walk with God. He knows Christians struggle and are sometimes inconsistent. He also knows people who are not Christians who talk about God in a flippant way.

EI Elyon

Redeemer

Adonai

Tyrone thought of the third commandment, “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.”

Why did God see this as such a big deal? It didn’t seem like saying His name wrong should be such a big deal. Or maybe there was something he didn’t quite understand about this commandment.

Who was really guilty of misusing God’s name? Was it the rock star who lived a life as distant from God as possible but said His name in an awards ceremony and other opportune times? Was it the actors in the movies who had no claim to any relationship with God but used His name as part of their negative vocabulary? It seemed like everyone did that. Was it the television evangelist who seemed to use the name of the Lord to get his way but then lived a life that did anything but point to Christ? Was it Shantell, who never misused the name of the Lord and did all the right “spiritual” things, but who struggled in other areas of her life to really respect other people?

Suddenly it hit him: if he were to talk wonderfully about his own father in public then turn his back on that same father when he came home, it would be offensive. It would be equally offensive to his father if

Continued on page 6.

Bible Study

Honor God's Name

We always want to know why we should do something. Today's Bible study will show us three reasons why we should honor God's name. Read these short passages and answer the questions.

READ EXODUS 19:3-5.

What had God done for the Israelites (vs. 4)?

What has God done for you?

If the Israelites obeyed God, what would they become to Him? What do you think this means?

What are you to God?

READ ACTS 19:13-17.

How were these people misusing God's name (vs. 13)?

What happened to them (vs. 16)?

After reading these passages, write three reasons why *you* should honor God's name.



God's Word

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

READ EXODUS 20:1-5A, 7.

How did God identify Himself when He spoke to the Israelites (vs. 2)?

What could God say He has done for *you*?

What was God's command to the Israelites in verse 7?

Is this command also to you? Why?

Exodus 19:3-5a

³Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.' "

Exodus 20:1-5a, 7

¹And God spoke all these words:

²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³"You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them;

⁷"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."

Acts 19:13-17

¹³Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." ¹⁴Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" ¹⁶Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

¹⁷When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.



Continued from page 3.

he were to make fun of him or go out and use his father's credit cards without permission. Tyrone also knew that his father would be just as offended if Tyrone said all the right things in public and in private but then treated other family members disrespectfully.

Misusing God's name is using God's name or referring to God in an offensive way, Tyrone said to himself. *It's not as easy as just not cussing or swearing, it's how we relate to God and all of His creation!* Now it made sense—no wonder God put this commandment directly after no other gods and no idols, and before such biggies as murder, stealing, and adultery! The realization made Tyrone take a second look at many things in his own life, not just his music.

**MISUSING GOD'S NAME
IS USING GOD'S NAME OR
REFERRING TO GOD IN AN
OFFENSIVE WAY.**

It also allowed Tyrone to take a second look at what it meant to have a relationship with God.



CAN YOU NAME THEM?

If you can name all of the Ten Commandments, you're in the minority. Some polls say only 10% of all teenagers surveyed could remember the second commandment.

How many can you remember without looking them up? Write them down; then check yourself against Exodus 20:1-17. Give yourself 10 extra points if you remembered them in order.

10-20—Way to go!

8-9—Pretty good.

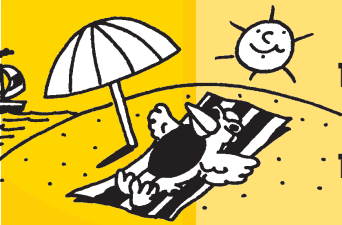
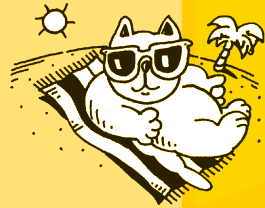
5-7—Well, not too bad.

4 or less—You need to learn the basics!

the book



- 1 Not Just a Name
Can You Name Them?**
- 2 Race against Time
Law-breakers!**
- 3 How to Live with Your Parents
without Losing Your Mind
How to Treat Your Dad Better than
a Groundhog**
- 4 Lie Detectors
Money Talks**
- 5 The Truth and the Whole Truth
Keeping Your Word**
- 6 Another Way
Invaluable Invisibles**
- 7 The Vows
Getting Home**
- 8 All Rise
Fake Out**
- 9 Go Climb a Tree
Z-z-z-z**
- 10 Burger Bashing
Rehabbed Relationships**
- 11 Draw the Line
3-D Compliment**
- 12 Go & Serve
Dot to Dot**
- 13 That Sinking Feeling
Door to Door**



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every day devos

You shall not misuse the name of the
LORD your God. —Exodus 20:7a

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

“Why, if it isn’t Darling Darla.” None of us like to have people misuse or make fun of our name. Should God feel any different?

MONDAY Read Exodus 20:1-7. Who were the original Ten Commandments written for? Make a poster for your room that reminds you, as a follower of God, to honor Him.

TUESDAY How would you feel if *your name* were used as a swearword, said in a tone of anger or disgust? Ask God to make you sensitive to love and revere His name.

WEDNESDAY Does God have feelings that can be hurt? Write God a letter of apology for times you may have offended Him by dishonoring His name.

THURSDAY Make a list of names of God from the Bible. (Check a Bible dictionary or concordance.) What do these names tell you about God?

FRIDAY To avoid misuse, Jewish people would not pronounce God’s revealed name (*Yahweh*, which means “I am”). They substituted the word “LORD,” which means master or boss. Who is boss of your life?

SATURDAY People worship all kinds of gods, including popularity and power, but they miss the one true God. How about you? Write a letter that expresses your love for God.