

The School of Biblical Law

Covenant and Law

Lesson Twenty: “The Covenant Model and Commandment Three, Part 2”

Commandment three has as its focus the issue of power as it applies to the use of delegated authority and the use of personal property. God grants covenant to his servants (Commandment One) who work for Him without seeking to dictate the terms of the work (Commandment Two) or illegally using God’s assets (Commandment Three).

Commandments 1-5	Covenant Model	Commandments 6-10
No other gods	Transcendence (Do not assault headship)	
No graven images	Hierarchy (Do not assault the yoke)	
Do not take God’s Name in vain	Ethics (Do not assault personal property)	

1. Man and God work together in the development or glorification of the earth.

Man possesses delegated authority rather than original authority; and in his position as a delegated representative, man can do business in the name of the Lord.

The power possessed through delegated authority is seen in countless examples in everyday life: workplace, home life, civil authority.

One important aspect of Commandment Three is that of appropriating legitimate power that is greater than the individual’s independently achieved levels of power.

2. Commandment Three forbids empowering oneself illegitimately by injecting a name or words in an attempt to access power beyond one’s earned station or one’s delegated position.

God forbids the use of the name of a higher authority to illegitimately boost personal credibility.

- Man may not use the name of God as his own personal asset.
- Man may not use the name of anyone filling the role of sovereign in a covenantal relationship as his own personal asset: workplace, home life, civil authority.
- Man may not appeal to the things of God in an attempt to foster the pretext of reliability and power: “But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou cannot make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.” (Mt. 5:34-37)

God forbids the use of profane words in an attempt of illegitimately access power from below.

- Profanity and vulgar words are the counterfeit of legitimately delegated authority and are the exercise of power that rises from force rather than from representative stewardship.
- Profane words are the exaltation of the will of man over his fellowman and over creation rather than release of the will of God in the name of Jesus.

Because a name is descriptive of a man’s person, his work, and his property, then anyone who represents that person must be a courier of the same characteristics, ambassador of the same work, and deputy of the same property. To do otherwise is to usurp the man’s personal property and break the trust of delegated authority. As God’s covenant people, Christians must faithfully represent the Lord. “And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Col. 3:17)