

The School of Biblical Law

Covenant and Law

Lesson Twenty-One: “The Covenant Model and Commandment Three, Part 3”

Commandment Three authorizes God’s covenant stewards to use His name as they represent Him as ambassadors of the Kingdom and as they labor to disciple nations and advance Christ’s Kingdom into every arena of human activity. Not all believers nor are all institutions allowed to use the name of God in the identical functions. Careful examination of spheres of authority sheds light on the legal use of God’s name.

Commandments 1-5	Covenant Model	Commandments 6-10
No other gods	Transcendence	
No graven images	Hierarchy	
Do not take the Lord’s Name in vain	Ethics	

1. God has appointed several functions that are common to all believers and in which each believer is authorized to invoke the name of Jesus.

Petitioning prayer is the activity by which each believer can request blessings, rewards, or provisions that are available because Jesus ratified the covenant offered to man, secured all promised privileges as a legally-qualified heir, and made all covenant privileges available to all joint-heirs.

The ministry of healing, deliverance, operation of Holy Spirit gifts, and various functions of mercy deeds may be operated by all believers as Jesus’ representatives.

2. Judgment may administered in the name of God. “Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.” (Psalms 149:6-9)
3. Judgment may not be meted out by the individual but is rather an institutional function; three monopolistic agencies are granted delegated use of God’s name to execute judgement and justice in the earth.

The first monopolistic agency is the church (Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5).

- The church may, after processing through internal courts, invoke the sanction of excommunication.
- Elders are appointed to guard the flock of God over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers (Acts 20:28).
- Excommunication removes the non-repentant from the communion table and thus closes the opportunity for efficacious cleansing from sin.

The second monopolistic agency is the family (Prov. 10:13; 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15).

- Parents may inflict corporeal pain through the use of the rod as representative delegates to train up their children, who are ultimately the heritage of the Lord (Ps. 127:3).
- Parents are only authorized to exercise authority in each singular family unit but not authorized to represent God through judgment on all children, everywhere.

The third monopolistic agency is the civil realm or the civil government (Rom. 13:1-6).

- The civil realm is identified as a minister of God and a revenger to execute wrath upon those who do evil.
- Citizens may swear to tell the truth in the name of God when called upon to witness because the civil realm functions in delegated authority to execute judgment in the name of God.

God has granted to mankind the authority to stand as His representative to execute judgments in the earth not as vigilantes nor as independent judges but in the context of monopolistic agencies.