

Sermon Handout

“Misappropriating God’s Nature”

Exodus 20:7

- I. The meaning of “vain” in the Third Word
 - a. “Vain,” “vanity”
 - Speaking ruin to God’s reputation
Eze 13:6-9; Lam 2:13-15; Eze 13:22-23
 - Used as a synonym for idols
Ps 24:4; Jer 18:15
 - b. “Profane” Lev 19:12
 - Doing violence to God’s law
Zeph 3:4; Lev 18:21; Ex 31:14; Ps 89:31
 - Doing violence toward others
Ps 55:20
 - Doing violence against God’s order
Gen 49:4 – Reuben & Jacob’s wife
Isa 43:28 – God’s violence against the temple
(*cf.* Isa 47:6)
- II. The Third Word and God’s order
 - a. God’s name and whatever else he uses to reveal himself
See WLC Q. 112; Dt 28:58; Ps 29:2; Ps 138:2
 - b. Doing violence to God’s order is sinful, requiring atonement
Lev 6:1-7
 - c. Giving false testimony violates the Third Word
Dt 19:15-21
- III. Treating other men justly, requires adherence to the Third Word
God’s order in the world depends on recognizing his
Sovereignty in all matters.

To profane God’s name, destroys just order and civilization.