

### **I. Taking God’s Name in Vain ([Ex. 20:7](#) pp. [Dt. 5:11](#))**

1. “in vain” indicates that which is empty, worthless, and to no good purpose.
2. God’s name is great ([Mal. 1:11](#)).
3. God’s name is to be respected ([Mal. 1:14](#)).
4. God’s name is excellent and must be treated as such ([Ps. 8:1, 9, 34:3](#)).
5. God’s enemies take His name in vain ([Ps. 139:20](#)).

### **II. Swearing ([Mt. 5:33-37](#); [Jm. 5:12](#))**

1. Swearing is related to the word “oath” with a pertinent definition of “an irreverent or careless use of a sacred name *broadly*: swearword” (Merriam-Webster).
2. Oaths are often connected with euphemisms.
3. In the case of swearing and oaths, the instruction is to mean what we say with threat of doing evil and condemnation if we do not ([Mt. 5:37](#); [Jm. 5:12](#)).

### **III. Cursing ([Jm. 3:8-12](#))**

1. The idea is to wish evil against a person or thing.
  - a. Cursing is the opposite of blessing ([Jm. 3:9-10](#); cf. [Mt. 5:44](#)).
2. Another definition is “to use profanely insolent language against: blaspheme” (Merriam-Webster).
3. Curse words are typically censored in public communication.

### **IV. Filthiness, Foolish Talking, and Jesting ([Eph. 5:3-4](#))**

1. Filthiness describes that which is obscene or obscenity.
  - a. Obscene is defined as “abhorrent to morality or virtue *specifically*: designed to incite to lust or depravity” (Merriam-Webster).
  - b. This is shameful language.
2. Foolish talking is the talk of fools which is foolishness and sin put together ([Pr. 24:9, 15:2](#); cf. [Ps. 14:1ff](#)).
  - a. Described as “nonsense.”
  - b. Christ never spoke this way (cf. [Jn. 7:46](#)).
3. Jesting is also known as “ribaldry.”
  - a. Ribald is defined as “crude, offensive” and is “characterized by or using coarse indecent humor” (Merriam-Webster).
  - b. This describes dirty jokes.

### **V. Lying ([Col. 3:9](#); [Eph. 4:25](#))**

1. Lying is conscious and intentional falsehood designed to deceive.
  - a. There is a difference in misspeaking and intentionally trying to deceive someone!
  - b. It is never right to do wrong ([2 Cor. 13:8](#)).
  - c. No lie is of the truth ([1 Jn. 2:21](#)).

2. Lying was punished swiftly in the early church ([Ac. 5:1-5](#)).
3. There must always be a way of escape when it comes to lying ([1 Cor. 10:13](#)).

#### **VI. Slander ([1 Tim. 3:11](#); [2 Tim. 3:3](#); [Tt. 2:3](#))**

1. This word is connected with the devil himself.
  - a. *diabolos* G1228 is translated as “devil” 35 of 38 times in the New Testament.
2. The word means “to accuse falsely” and typically is designed to defame or damage a person’s reputation.
3. There are several sub-types of slander:
  - a. Whisperers ([Rm. 1:29](#); [2 Cor. 12:20](#); cf. [Pr. 16:28](#)).
    - i. This word describes one who slanders **in secret** and is related to gossip (cf. [1 Tim. 5:13](#) where the meaning is “to throw up bubbles” i.e., to indulge in empty and foolish talk).
    - ii. Translated sometimes as “talebearer” in the Old Testament ([Pr. 26:20, 22](#)).
  - b. Backbiting ([2 Cor. 12:20](#); [Rm. 1:30](#)).
    - i. Instead of slandering in secret, this individual is **open** about it.

#### **VII. Boasting ([Rm. 1:30](#); [2 Tim. 3:2](#); [Jm. 4:16](#); [1 Jn. 2:16](#))**

1. Boasting is closely related to pride and arrogance.
  - a. In a number of languages an arrogant person is described figuratively as ‘one who speaks big words about himself’ or ‘one whose mouth is too big for his body’ (Louw-Nida 764).
2. This describes “*an impious and empty presumption which trusts in the stability of earthly things*” (Thayer 25).
3. The Syrian king Ben-Hadad was a boaster ([1 Kgs. 20:10-11](#)).

#### **VIII. Blasphemy ([Col. 3:8](#); [2 Tim. 3:2](#))**

1. Also translated as “evil speaking” ([Eph. 4:31](#)) and “railing” ([2 Pt. 2:11](#)).
2. There are two senses for this word:
  - a. Universally it means “*slander, detraction, speech injurious to another’s good name*” (Thayer 102).
  - b. Specifically, it means “*impious and reproachful speech injurious to the divine majesty*” (Thayer 102).

#### **IX. Railing ([1 Cor. 5:11](#))**

1. This word describes “to revile or scold in harsh, insolent, or abusive language” (Merriam-Webster).
  - a. This is a critical word to our salvation as revilers will not be in Heaven ([1 Cor. 6:9-10](#)).
2. Christ did not revile thus we should not revile ([1 Pt. 2:21-23, 3:8-9](#)).