

## THE ULTIMATE HATE SPEECH TEN KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS SERIES

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**TEXT: Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”**

**INTRO:** Today, hate speech is in the news. Any racist speech is considered hate speech, and rightly so. But today, it goes beyond that. Some describe “hate speech” as speech, gestures, conduct, writing, or displays that incite prejudicial actions against a group or individuals.

Jimmy Kimmel this week came out with an apology for something he said and did in the 90s. “I apologize to those who were genuinely hurt or offended by the makeup I wore or the words I spoke.” He had allegedly used the N-word in a Comedy Central skit in the 90s when he wore black makeup and was portraying Karl Malone, an NBA basketball star. This is not the first time he had to apologize publicly. He also mocked the accent of Melania Trump, the President’s wife.

What I want to talk to you about is the ultimate hate speech. One that God says will not go without punishment. It is hate speech towards God. **Isaiah 52:5 “My name is continually blasphemed all day long.”** Today, especially through movies and TV shows, God’s name is continually blasphemed all day long.

Today our text is: **Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”**

Two questions come to mind: (1) What does it mean to take the name of the Lord in vain? (2) Why would there be such an emphasis on punishing those who do misuse His name? He doesn’t make this threat about murder and adultery. Why?

There are two primary ways that we misuse God’s name: (1) when we do evil in God’s name, and (2) when we blaspheme His name. That is the ultimate hate speech.

### **I. WE MISUSE HIS NAME WHEN WE DO EVIL IN GOD’S NAME**

**A.** Explanation: The Hebrew word for “take” is *tisa*, which means to “carry.” The NIV has the best English translation, “misuse.” “Do not misuse God’s name in vain.” And who misuses or carries God’s name in vain? **Any person who claims to be acting in God’s name while doing the opposite of what God wants—evil is misusing His name.** Here are some examples:

### **B. DOING EVIL IN HIS NAME THROUGH THE CRUSADES**

**1.** From a period of 1096 and 1291. The Crusaders had the objective of recovering Palestine from Muslim Turks. Like today, Christians who wanted to go to the Holy Land couldn’t because of the Muslim rule. The Pope promised the soldiers that their sins would be forgiven if they went on the Crusade and took back Jerusalem. Sadly, the Crusaders ended up raping, killing Jews, Muslims, and other Christians as they marched on to Jerusalem. Seven major Crusades took place during this period. And to this day, people in Europe want nothing to do with Christianity because of the Crusades.

### **C. DOING EVIL IN HIS NAME THROUGH ISLAMIC JIHADS**

1. The word *jihad* means struggle or striving for a good cause. From the time Mohammad founded Islam in 595 AD at the age of 25, Islam spread through military conquest. By the 8<sup>th</sup> century, one half of all Christians in Europe lived under Islamic rule. Today, Islam is growing primarily through biological growth, but the foundation of *jihad*, which means a “holy war,” is used to justify Islamic terrorism and to kill innocent people in the name of Allah, like what happened on 9/11. It is interesting that they will call on the name of God, *Allahu Akbar* (“God is great”), when they commit a terrorist act.

#### **D. DOING EVIL IN HIS NAME THROUGH SEXUAL ABUSE BY PRIESTS**

1. The movie *Spotlight* that came out in 2015. The movie is based on the groundbreaking story from the *Boston Globe*. The movie spotlights the systemic sexual abuse by the priests in the Boston Diocese. The conclusion of the movie is that because of the requirement of priestly celibacy, many who entered the priesthood were homosexual men who had no desire for a heterosexual marriage. Many of them had been sexually abused themselves. These men used their authority and position to sexually abuse other young men in their parish.
2. When I met with Pope Francis on June 10, 2016, along with 50 other Charismatic leaders from the U.S., I asked him about celibacy. I was disappointed that he would not change the requirements. I have further been disappointed by how he has not spoken out against these heinous crimes.
3. For those who have been sexually abused, especially by someone in spiritual authority, God says strongly, “**For the LORD will not leave him unpunished who misuses His name.**”
4. **God’s name represents His character, and when we do evil in His name, we totally dishonor and misrepresent God.** And when these atrocities are done in God’s name, people turn away from God and many become atheists as a result. That is why there is such a stern word of punishment for those who misuse the name of God or do evil in the name of God.

## **II. WE MISUSE HIS NAME WHEN WE BLASPHEME HIS NAME: THE ULTIMATE HATE SPEECH**

### **A. Blasphemy means to insult, mock, or curse His name. It also means to attribute the power of God to the devil.**

1. Unfortunately, so many Christians are so conformed to this world that they are cursing like never before.
2. As Christians, we represent Christ, whether you like it or not. It is what following and obeying Jesus is all about. When you curse, whether you use God’s name in vain, you are blaspheming His name and character.
3. By the grace of God, I have not cursed since I got saved 47 years ago.

### **B. The Ten Commandments can be summed up in loving God and loving one another. The first four Commandments have to do with us loving God, our vertical relationship with God. The final six Commandments have to do with loving others, our horizontal relationship with others.**

1. God’s will is that we obey the Ten Commandments, and by obeying these Commandments, we will have a successful life, family, and society.

### **C. FIVE KEYS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS THROUGH BRIDLED SPEECH (Ephesians 4:29-32)**

1. **VOW THAT YOU WILL NOT CURSE** - Ephesians 4:29a “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth”
2. **CHOOSE TO SAY POSITIVE WORDS** - Ephesians 4:29b “but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”
3. **GET RID OF ALL BITTERNESS AND ANGER** - Ephesians 4:31 “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.” Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”
4. **FORGIVE OTHERS** - Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”
5. **KNOW THAT YOU GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN YOU CURSE** - Ephesians 4:30 “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.” I wince when I hear God’s name being blasphemed on TV. The Holy Spirit is also grieved.

CONCLUSION: By God’s grace, you can walk this out by the power of the Holy Spirit.