

3rd Commandment: This is found in Exodus 20: 7

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

This 3rd commandment is more generally known as swearing. What does this mean to you? Do you have a problem with a “potty mouth” as people call it?

First, with this commandment, I will show that swearing is a bad habit that is learned from somewhere; this could be a parent/guardian, a neighbor, friend, general relative or even a total stranger.

We will now see a cartoon called **Who Said That?** from Baby Looney Tunes

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Who_Said_That.webm

Bible Study: Proverbs 3: 11-12; 13:24; 22: 6; 23: 13-16; 29: 17

Pro 3:11 My son, do not reject the LORD's discipline, and do not despise his correction,
Pro 3:12 because the LORD corrects the person he loves, just as a father corrects the son he delights in.

Pro 13:24 Whoever does not discipline his son hates him, but whoever loves him is diligent to correct him.

Pro 22:6 Train a child in the way appropriate for him, and when he becomes older, he will not turn from it.

Pro 23:13 Don't withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with a rod, he won't die.

Pro 23:14 Punish him with a rod, and you will rescue his soul from Sheol.

Pro 23:15 My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart will greatly rejoice.

Pro 23:16 My innermost being will be glad when

your lips speak what is right.

Pro 29:17 Correct your son and he will comfort you; he will also delight your soul.

If a person doesn't listen to someone like Granny, then this habit follows through his/her life. This habit can become a way of life and interfere with even God-given desires.

We will now see a Tiny Toon Adventures episode called **To Bleep Or Not To Bleep**.

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/To_Bleep_Or_Not_To_Bleep.webm

Foulmouth looks OK now, even though Buster picked up the habit (which means he wasn't listening to his own teaching). but is he? If we aren't careful, we can teach others the same way of garbage.

It appears that Buster ended up influenced by

Foulmouth even though he was trying to be a positive influence. This is unfortunately the case all too often. As we help one another we have to be ready.

Even if Foulmouth isn't careful the habit can return. He can turn into someone like Homer from our next clips.

We will now see a series of clips from The Simpsons episode **Bart The Lover**

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Bart_The_Lover1.webm

What do you see in this clip?

First, we see Homer fussing and cussing about a piece of wood that he is not able to cut right; we then see that his potty mouth influences one of Ned Flanders' sons (Todd). Ned isn't helpful in this clip. **Do you see why?**

Ned punishes Todd with “No Bible Stories”. This is actually a terrible punishment in my opinion as this is precisely what his son probably needs to get him back on track.

Reverend Lovejoy in this clip doesn't help either as he is vague and is just as bad as Homer with swearing.

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Bart_The_Lover2.webm

What do you see in this clip?

We see Homer is still fussing and cussing about his wood and then he and Ned have a talk about the curses and swears and a deal is struck—No swearing from Homer and Ned shaves his mustache. Homer (under his breath can be heard still calling Flanders a bad name like “Admiral Butthead”. As you can see at this time, Homer has no intention of slowing down the curses.

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Bart_The_Lover2.webm

Lover3.webm

What do you see in this clip?

Homer and Marge have an argument and at the end of it, Homer doesn't think he can quit because he thinks God made him like that. Marge is somewhat good here and convinces Homer he can with the help of a "Swear Jar". I find it interesting though that Marge lays down some ground rules that provide minimal slack for Homer (a few places or situations that he can use swears).

Do you think this is wise?

Although God doesn't like swears, I can see some logic behind this; quitting a bad habit is hard and we sometimes need to be weaned from them. I don't totally agree with Marge, but as long as this is effective enough to rid Homer of this problem eventually, it's worth doing because it is better than nothing.

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Bart_The_Lover4.webm

What do you see in this clip?

We see that the next day is a very bad day for Homer, who puts in too much money in the offering plate at church, then doesn't knock over all the pins in his bowling game, then sees Ned doing too well in their bet together (Homer is envious and mad because Ned is doing well), then forgets the door of the doghouse he is building, then he gets stung by a swarm of hornets.

One thing about a bad habit, the Devil will try to attack a good plan to stop this kind of sin trap.

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Bart_The_Lover5.webm

What do you see in this clip?

We see now that Homer is able to hold his tongue enough to not actually say these bad words, but you can tell he still is inside. This is an improvement, but for the habit to be totally broken, there is work to be done. The family sees that Homer is trying very hard to stop and rewards him for his efforts with a six pack of beer inside a new doghouse (both were bought with the Swear Jar funds).

Unfortunately, Homer has a huge potty mouth, but he seems to learn somewhat of a lesson. Normally though, any lesson that Homer learns doesn't last long.

Bible Study: Proverbs 4:23-27, Ecclesiastes 7: 21-22, Matthew 12: 33-37, Colossians 3:8

Pro 4:23 Above everything else guard your heart, because from it flow the springs of life.

Pro 4:24 Never talk deceptively and don't keep company with people whose speech is corrupt.

Pro 4:25 Let your eyes look directly ahead; fix your gaze straight in front of you.

Pro 4:26 Carefully measure the paths for your feet, and all your ways will be established.

Pro 4:27 Do not turn to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

Ecc 7:21 Don't listen to everything that is spoken—you may hear your servant cursing you,

Ecc 7:22 since you also know how often you have

cursed others.

Mat 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten, because a tree is known by its fruit.

Mat 12:34 You children of serpents! How can you say anything good when you are evil? The mouth speaks about what overflows from the heart.

Mat 12:35 A good person brings good things out of a good treasure house, and an evil person brings evil things out of an evil treasure house.

Mat 12:36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give an account for every thoughtless word they have uttered,

Mat 12:37 because by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Col 3:8 But now you must also get rid of anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene speech, and all such sins.

To end this section on swearing, we will see a clip from an Animaniacs episode called **LA LA Law**.

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/LA_LA_Law.webm

This cartoon clip right here says it all; swearing is not nice and we would be well served to avoid it.

We also have to remember one more thing, in my opinion, if we say a word that is not a swear or a bad word (but it means the same thing to us) then it is probably equally bad for us spiritually because God reads our true heart. Also, we also need to understand that saying God's name without praying to Him or actually talking about Him is also considered taking His name in vain. So many people use expressions like “Oh God” and the like as just an expression of surprise disgust etc. and aren't really praying. We all have to watch this because it's still breaking this 3rd commandment. Swearing and taking God's name in vain is a slippery slope of crassness, filth and futility, not to mention if you curse the wrong thing then God could allow it to go through and all involved (sending and receiving) could be left with nothing or worse; this

would be a tragedy that otherwise could be avoided if it happened.

What have we learned?

We need to understand that this habit is one of the most addictive sins because it intertwines with our emotions very tightly and we all have these. We need to pray to God about this slippery slope and be accountable to God and then our peers to break a bad habit such as this.