

▶ Read Revelation 16:9

What does it mean to curse God?

Is cursing God the same as using God's name as a curse?

No, it's not but both are blasphemy. To curse God is an act of defiance against Him. It is an act of apostasy, making a choice that you will not follow or believe. In this verse, it has inherent in it an acknowledgement that God exists. (It is this kind of blasphemy that Jesus is referring to in his teaching about blasphemy against the Spirit.)



Blasphemy is: **To curse God - Defiance of God**

▶ Read 1 Corinthians 15:15

One last kind of blasphemy which the Bible does not directly refer to is claiming something to be of God when it is not. For example, claiming a prophecy or a course of action to be from God when it is not. Many a blasphemous statement started "God told me..."

Why is this Blasphemy?



Blasphemy is: **Claiming something of God that isn't true.**



When should we and shouldn't we say "God said"?

The answer is sparingly even when you know it to be true and never when in doubt.

Is there anything else you would consider blasphemy?



Is atheism blasphemy?

Is questioning the word of God blasphemy?

Christians have made an argument for this and in a sense they are, but if it lacks the idea of malice it is probably not the kind of blasphemy this study has looked at.



When Christianity or the Godhead are treated blasphemously in the media what should we do?

FREEDOM

Christian Church

Blasphemy



Read Deuteronomy 5:11

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. Deuteronomy 5:11 KJV



Traditionally Christians have given a specific meaning to taking the Lord's name in vain.

What do we normally mean by it?



We usually think of it as using a name for God in the same way we would use a swear word.

Is this blasphemy?

Yes, it is, but it is not the only meaning of blasphemy, nor is it probably what this verse is intended to outlaw.



What does it mean "the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name"?

When you use God's name as a swear word, or as a curse what attitude does it show towards God?

Blasphemy is a bad idea for anyone who hopes to get to heaven!



Blasphemy is: **Using God's name as a swear word.**



How do you feel when someone blasphemes?

What do you do?



For us the Bible goes further:



Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:4

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips. Colossians 3:8

For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. Ephesians 5:12

There is much debate about what constitutes a swear word. Sometimes this is in order to justify what we suspect is wrong. Paul is very clear that we must avoid all obscenity, filth and shameful talk.





Why do you think it is wrong for a Christian to swear?

Does this include using God's name as an exclamation?

Generally yes, but sometimes, faced with a sudden or difficult situation, assuming our motives and relationship with God are right, it may not be intended as irreverent, but rather a cry for help. In which case is not Blasphemy.



Blasphemy is: Using God's name as an exclamation.



Read Leviticus 24:10-16

What did blaspheme the name of the Lord with a curse mean?

It may mean he used Gods name as a swear word or it may mean he called a curse on his opponent in God's name. He was the son of an alien, which may account for both his irreverent action and the query over what to do with him.



From a Jewish perspective to uses God's name as a swear word would have been all but unthinkable, they associated this command with using God's name carelessly, by speaking irreverently about God or by making a promise or oath in God's name and then not keeping it.

What was Jesus attitude to this? Matthew 5:32-37



There are times in Scripture where oaths were taken in God's name. Deuteronomy 6:13, Jeremiah 4:2, Revelation 10:6, (Paul comes close several times Romans 1:9,9:1, 1 Corinthians 15:31) Jesus is saying if you are a person of your word then you do not need oaths to strength your statements. He is also discouraging this practice because of the danger of blasphemy inherent in it.

By the time of Christ, the Jews took this command so seriously that they avoided speaking directly about God. They used euphemisms like 'the name,' 'the power' or 'heaven' to avoid carelessly speaking about God. The names of God could be used in prayer or when reading scripture but not in general conversation. The most sacred name, Yahweh could only be used by the high priest.



Blasphemy is: Speaking irreverently about God



Blasphemy is: Making an oath in God's that you do not keep.



The word blasphemy is the English version of the Greek *blasphemia*, meaning *blapto*, to damage or harm, and *pheme*, to speak. The Hebrew for Blaspheme *nekav* means to curse, pierce or strike.

The Hebrew translated by the KJV as in vain and the NIV as misuse means to desolate, to lie about to treat as false, vain, empty or worthless

The NIV translates the Greek Blasphemia as slander or insult. It can mean to rail against, speak evil of or revile. We assume that blasphemy means taking God's name in vain, but in original use blasphemy could be against anyone. (eg. Acts 13:45 & 18:6 NIV abusive = Blasphemia, 2 Peter 2:11- Blaspheme angels)



As relating to God, how would you now define Blasphemy?

Perhaps, showing disrespect for God, or speaking evil of God, to revile His name, to mock God in your actions or your words. In this case, it is the opposite of the "fear of the Lord", respect or reverence for God. It is not just a spoken sin, it may be acted, but above all, it is an attitude or way of life.



Blasphemy is: disrespect for God.

Do not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of your people. Exodus 22:28



Deuteronomy 5:11 describes blasphemy as against God's name.

What does 'name' mean?

Name here means far more than just the words we call God by. It means His very nature, His identity or character, It can even mean his commands or teachings.



But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or alien, blasphemes the LORD, and that person must be cut off from his people. Numbers 15:30

According to this verse, what is blasphemy?

Why is this Blasphemy?



Blasphemy is: deliberately disregarding God's laws.

When Jesus was interrogated before his crucifixion it says he was blasphemed. Luke 22:65 NIV- Insulted.



Read Ezekiel 37:22-23

How had the Exiles profaned the name of God?



It is this passage that Paul paraphrases in Romans 2.

As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." Romans 2:24.

According to Ezekiel, this is something God's people do. According to Paul, it is what the gentiles do as a result of what God's people do. Both are true both are blasphemy.

How do we as Christian cause this kind of Blasphemy?

When by our actions we bring God's name into disrepute. When we fall short of our own standards and cause people to say things like, "If that's what God is I don't want him" or "if that is what it means to be a Christians I don't want to be one." 1 Timothy 6:1.



Blasphemy is: Bringing God into disrepute.