

## Taking God's Name Deuteronomy 14

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### 1) A New Identity as sons of the LORD

Israel was to be set apart and different from the nations around them by virtue of their special adoptive relationship to God.

It was to change how they looked and ate and their material priorities.

It was to change their attitude and actions:

- A) In Responding to \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1; 1 Thess.4:13)
- B) In what they \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.3-21; Mark 7:18-19)
- C) In how they \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.22-29; 1Cor 9:6-7)

Micah 4:5 - "For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever."

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## Small Group Questions

### REFLECT

1. Read v.1a. Israel's relationship to YWH defined them. They were people of the Name. By virtue of being sons of the LORD they took on His name. They were marked by that name in who they were and what they did. See Rev. 22:4  
Now read the third commandment in Deut.5:11. Do you think there is more to this than just a prohibition against swearing? Discuss what this commandment is really getting at.
2. How does taking on Jesus' Name change our approach to death?
3. Note the word "for" at the beginning of v.2. What's the reason or motivation Moses gives for Israel's need to be different than the nations around them?
4. Read Leviticus 11 where the food list first appears, then read Deut.14. Are there any differences between the two lists?
5. Read Mark 7:18-23. What was Jesus' perspective on the food laws?
6. Read Acts 10:1 –11:18. If the food laws set Israel apart from the other nations, what message was God sending by declaring all foods clean? See 10:34
7. According to Deut. 14:22-29, taking God's name ought to affect how we give. What does v.29 imply about the scope of our generosity? Who should we be careful to help and support?

Bill Seal writes,

*"He who serves must follow me."* Is it possible that I have attempted to serve without following? Are there those among us who want to serve but have no intention of following? This is spiritual dyslexia. Perhaps that's taking on the Name of the Lord in vain? When we claim his Name but have no intention of doing His will. We profess His Name but have no intention of following Him. Some may want Him to be their shepherd without wanting to be His sheep.

### RESPOND

What is it that defines or marks you?

If you've taken God's Name, how has that changed you?

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