

Oaths & Integrity

Matt 5:33-37

Q: What do the scriptures say about oaths?

33"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

James 5:12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Leviticus 19:12 "Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

Numbers 30:2 When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.

Deuteronomy 5:11"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Deuteronomy 6:13 Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.

Deuteronomy 23:21 If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin.

Deuteronomy 23:23 Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the LORD your God with your own mouth.

Matt 12:35-37 35"The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. 36"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. 37"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Lev 5:4-6 4Or if a person swears thoughtlessly with his lips to do evil or to do good, in whatever matter a man may speak thoughtlessly with an oath, and it is hidden from him, and then he comes to know it, he will be guilty in one of these. 5'So it shall be when he becomes guilty in one of these, that he shall confess that in which he has sinned. 6'He shall also bring his guilt offering to the LORD for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a goat as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement on his behalf for his sin

Q: Is taking an oath okay?

1. God swears oaths - Gen 22:15-18
2. God says we should take our oaths in His name - Deuteronomy 6:13
3. Num 6 - the Nazarite. An oath taken in separating yourself to God.
John the Baptist a Nazarite from birth. Greatest man born of woman.

Q: Should we need to take an oath?

1. A godly man/woman should be a truthful woman because God is truth - 4. To say and do are from God (Num 23:19)
2. Proclaiming something verbally, audibly makes it no more before God than it being in your heart. The doing of it, performing it is the critical moment of integrity.

Q: What is actually being condemned and why? Why shouldn't we make an oath?

1. Makes you a liar - Lev 5:4-6
2. Careless use of words Matt 12:35-37 He is the Word and His Word is truth because He is truth - Lack of Integrity
Yes be Yes & No be No
3. Misusing God's name - no reverence Deut 5:11
4. Having little self-control and much frustration, anger

Q: What are we supposed to get out of this?

What we do is critical. Walk as Jesus walked. Not talk as Jesus talked. Integrity. Self-control. A model of walking in truth.