

Truth Telling and Promise Keeping

James 5: ¹² But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

I. As believers we are not prohibited from taking an oath

Joshua 2: ¹⁷ Now the men had said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us

I Sam 20: ³ But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."

Matt 26: ⁶³ The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

Rom 1: ⁹ God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you

Gal 1: ²⁰ I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

Gen 22: ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

II. As believers we must tell the truth

Matthew 23:16-22 Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.' ¹⁷ You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? ¹⁸ You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.' ¹⁹ You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰ Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹ And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. ²² And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.

Eph 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ., **25** Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

I Peter 3:10 "Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep their tongue from evil
and their lips from deceitful speech.

(1) The half-truth:

(2) The "white" lie:

(3) The lie to cover for someone else:

(4) Exaggeration:

(5) The silent lie:

(6) The cover-up lie:

(7) The evasive lie:

Steven J. Cole

III. As believers we must be aware of why we make false promises?

Pride

Mark 6:26 The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.

Pleasure

Pressure

IV. As believers we must be aware of the consequences of failing to be honest and keeping promises

Loss of rewards

II Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad

II Peter 2:9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

“The heart is a storehouse and peoples words reveal what they keep there”
John MacArthur

If there is ever a question about whether or not we can keep a promise.....Just tell the truth...Do not be afraid to say I am not able to commit at this time.

Close:

“It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.” Solomon

Ecc 5:5