

Submit to God's Control

Matthew 5:33-37

Background.

- i. The leaders invented a system to determine whether a vow had to be kept.
- ii. Only vows made explicitly in the name of God were binding.
- iii. Jesus points out the foolishness of this by reminding His audience of God's omnipresence.

Big Idea: God is Lord of all; therefore, submit your entire life to his control.

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.'³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil (Mat 5:33-37).

Big Idea: God is Lord of all; therefore, submit your entire life to his control.

Submit to God's Control

1. Eliminate loopholes for righteousness (v. 33).
2. Let God rule your speech (vv. 34-36).
3. Say what you mean (v. 37).

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Watchout for traditions that turn into laws (v. 33).

People go through great lengths to isolate and confine holiness to a very specific set of rules.

3 problems with loophole-Christianity.

- i. Cannot make us righteousness (Matt 5:20).
- ii. Focuses on the wrong thing (Mt 23:16-22).
- iii. Fall short of God's intent (Num 30:2; Deu 23:21).

2. Let God rule your speech (vv. 34-36).

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God is Lord of All!

- i. Heaven is the throne of God.
- ii. Earth is his footstool.
- iii. Jerusalem is the city of the great King.
- iv. We can't even control our hair. We have no authority to swear by more important things.

Making an oath is a claim that we can control the future and ultimately make God do our bidding.

We cannot even control the color of our hair.

So, let God be in control.

3. Say what you mean (v. 37).

³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Remember, words matter.

- i. Murder, adultery ... Let your yes be yes.
- ii. Our words reveal our heart condition (Jam 5:12).
- iii. Speaking truth eliminates other issues (Eph 4:25).

Promises, Profanity, and Politeness.

- i. Carefully worded promises aren't really promises.
- ii. Lying without profanity isn't righteous.
- iii. We don't have to say everything that's true.

Because God is Lord of all, submit your speech to his control.