

James 5:12

Honest to God

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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.

1. _____: Do not Swear or Make Oaths:

- a. “Above all”: bridge and transition to closing exhortations. –1 Pet 4:8
- b. “Do not swear, either by heaven or by the earth or by any other oath”
 - i. A reimplementation of _____ teaching:
 1. **Matt. 5:33-37** - from the Sermon on the Mount.
 2. **Matt. 23:16-22** - from His rebuke to the Scribes and Pharisees.
 - ii. Paul’s use of _____. –Rom 1:9; 2 Cor 1:23; Gal 1:20; Phil 1:8
 - iii. The Old Testament Background:
 1. Oaths were to be made by the _____ of the LORD. –Deut 6:13; 10:20
 2. At times such oaths were _____. –Ex 22:10-11
 3. Oaths were extremely _____ and _____. –Ex 20:7; Lev 19:12; Deut 23:21-23; Eccl. 5:1-6; Ps 15:4; Judges 11; 2 Sam 21:1-6
 - iv. The meaning of Jesus’ and James’ teaching:
 1. Oaths had become a means by to justify _____. –Matt 23:16-22
 2. But all oaths ultimately are sworn by the _____. –Matt 5:34-36
 3. We must not engage in this wicked practice. –Matt 5:34-36; Jam 5:12

2. _____: Speak Plain and Simple Truth:

- a. All our speech should be given at _____ strength. –2 Cor 1:15-18
- b. Truth should be spoken plainly without _____. –Prov 18:4
- c. As those who love the truth, and follow one who is the truth, we must be committed to speak the truth at all times. –2 Thes 2:10; Heb 6:18

3. _____: Avoid Falling Under Condemnation:

- a. The Christian will face God’s _____. –Jam 2:12-13; 2 Cor 5:10
- b. Our words reveal our _____. –Matt 12:34-37; Lk 6:45
- c. Our words reveal the reality of our _____. –Jam 1:26; John 8:44