

Sermon Notes – 01.01.2023 – New Year's Day
Commands of Jesus – Do Not Swear at All

Not Resolutions – Changed Hearts

How Powerful Is My Word to Change Me

How Powerful is God's Word to Change Me if I will Heed It?

Matthew 5:33-37 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.' ³⁴ **"But I say to you, make no oath at all,** either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. ³⁶ "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ **"But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.**

Cursing, Swearing, Profanity and Vulgarly – Speaking Profitably

Cursing - An appeal or prayer for evil or misfortune to befall someone or something

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; **bless and do not curse.**

Swearing – Making an Oath that what You Are Saying is True or Will Be Done

Profanity – Treat Something Sacred with Contempt – Using Speech that is Not Worthy

Ephesians 4:29 Let **no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth,** but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Vulgarity – Course, Crude, Low Language

Colossians 3:8-10 But now you also, **put them all aside:** *anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.* ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

Command of Jesus – Don't Make Oaths. Instead, Earn this Reputation – Speak Your Word and Keep it.

The Problem with Swearing an Oath in our Common Conversations

As a follower of Christ, People Should know – If I Speak, I mean it.- **'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'**

So, if you don't swear, should people expect that you are lying?

Jesus is Addressing Common Conversation – Not Court

We are not to bear false witness in court, but Jesus is correcting His followers about their everyday practice of lightly swearing to the truthfulness of what they were saying.

Eg. "Really," "Cross my Heart," etc.

Measuring our Words

Psalms 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Speaking to Profit Others

1 Corinthians 14:6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching?

The Apostle Paul is Instructing the people about their unprofitable practice of getting caught up in spiritual expressions that really don't help people grow – But, listen carefully to what he describes as profitable speaking. Sharing what God has revealed, sharing the amazing things God has caused you to know, speaking a word that God gave you to share with people, or simply the basic truth of Christian faith.

It is a wonderful part of life to be able to happily enjoy the things that are common to the life we share; to cause someone to laugh or simply smile. But, for all of this, we should also purpose to live and speak in a way that causes people to trust our words – For many who know us – we may be the closest they have ever come to hearing the voice of God.

Let the words of my mouth – The Holy Spirit is always in your audience

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.