

MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:33-37

“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.

1. The Christian and Oaths

Matthew 5:33-36

Matthew 23:16-22

“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁷ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? ¹⁸ And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁹ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred?

Matthew 23:16-22

²⁰ So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.

²¹ And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. ²² And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.”

1. The Christian and Oaths

Matthew 5:33-36

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<i>Spectrum of Interpretations</i>	
Chrysostom	Strict refusal of oaths even under pressure
Augustine	Formation: habits lead to perjury
Anabaptists	No oaths without exception
Reformed	Lawful oaths allowed, but rare; integrity of speech is primary

1. The Christian and Oaths

Application

Jesus issues a radical summons to truthfulness that if obeyed would make oaths unnecessary – because we would always and only speak truth.

2. The Christian's Everyday Speech

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- Purity (Eph. 4:29; 5:4; James 5:12)
- Honesty (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:9-10)
- Integrity (Ps. 15:4; Matt. 7:37; James 5:12)



2. The Christian's Everyday Speech

Matthew 5:33-37

3. Christ: The Christian's Model and Motive

Various Texts



By this you may know your Lord. He has been a faithful and true friend to you. O soldiers of the cross, when has he ever deceived you? When has he failed you, or forgotten you? Faithful? Ah, that he is, faithful to every word that he has spoken. And true? Do you not recognize him, for is he not the truth—the very truth of God? Has he not kept every promise that he has made you, and have you not found his



teachings to be everlastingly settled upon divine veracity? ...And faithful and true has he been to the great Father. The work he undertook to do he has accomplished... He stood as the surety of his people, and he has been faithful and true to that smarting suretyship.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon

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