

Living Without Loopholes

Sermon on the Mount, Part 4

Pastor Ken Ritz * July 25, 2021 * New Life Vineyard Church

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, "Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made." But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply "Yes," or "No"; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. Matthew 5:33-37

"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.' You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? 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.' You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it. Matthew 23:16-22

For followers of Christ, a simple "yes" or "no" is raised to the status of a sacred oath.

To live with integrity:

1. speak the _____.

The LORD hates those who tell lies but is pleased with those who keep their promises. Proverbs 12:22 NCV

"Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth. Avoid careless banter, white lies, and gossip." Proverbs 4:24 MSG

2. stand up for the _____.

For we cannot oppose the truth, but must always stand for the truth. 2 Corinthians 13:8 NLT

3. commit _____.

"I publicly proclaim bold promises; I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner so that no one will know what I mean." Isaiah 45:19

"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." Proverbs 22:1

"Good people will be remembered as a blessing, but the wicked will soon be forgotten." Proverbs 10:7

I will lead a life of integrity in my own home. Psalm 101:2 NLT