

"Aligning Your Life With Living Faith"

Stop Swearing

James 5:12

Introduction:

To Swear – means to strengthen your word by swearing by some higher authority. And an oath or swear has 3 parts, it attests to the truth, calling for God to witness, and thirdly invoking God’s punishment if you violated your word.

“When you were a kid did you ever try to convince someone you were really telling the truth?”

Man invented oaths and curses to convince someone of their truthfulness because unregenerate man is a habitual liar.

I. 4 Features in the Command to the Church in v.12

- a. The Distinction v.12a
- b. The Restriction v.12b
- c. The Instruction v.12c
- d. The Motivation v.12d

II. The Distinction (Above All) v.12a

- a. It is a command with priority
- b. It is a command with preeminence
- c. And it’s no surprise it is related to our speech (Jas 1:26, 2:12, 3:2-11, 4:11)
- d. People sin more with their tongues than in any other way Matt 12:34

III. The Restriction (Stop Swearing) v.12b

- a. James is not talking about filthy talk or profanity at this time Eph 4:29

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- b. He's talking about oaths, Misuse of the name of God, Profaning the name of God
- c. The Jews had developed a very complex system of swearing
- d. They were to swear only by God and at solemn occasions. Deut 6:13
- e. Your vow or oath to the Lord was not to be violated Num 30:2-3
- f. The Jews would swear by other things so they could violate their oath Matt 5:33-37

IV. **The Instruction (Let Your Yes Be Yes) v.12c**

- a. It's enough if you say yes, it's enough if you say no
- b. Anything beyond that is from the devil Matt 5:37
- c. Jesus lifted all conversation in His Church to the level of sacredness.
- d. We should have such integrity that it's enough for people to hear you say yes or no one time and they know you'll never violate your word.

V. **The Motivation (Fear of Being Sent to Hell) v.12d**

- a. This is not a reference to chastening believers
- b. The word for **Judgment** in the Greek is **Krisis** – which describes God's merciless sentencing to hell the unregenerate and unsaved
- c. This is a test if Living Faith,
- d. If your life is characterized by a pattern of lying hell is where you will life up your eyes. Rev 21:7-8