

WHAT IS TRUE INTEGRITY?
(Matthew 5:33-37)

- I. Integrity DEMANDED (Matt. 5:33; cf. Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21)
 - A. Law prohibited FALSE VOWS
 - 1. Making TRUE vows was ENCOURAGED (Deut. 6:13; cf. Heb. 6:16)
 - 2. In the OT, vows were made by MANY MEN
 - 3. In the OT, vows were made by GOD (e.g., Gen. 22:16-17)
 - 4. In the NT, vows were made by PAUL (Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23; 1 Thess. 2:5, 10; Phil. 1:8)
 - 5. In the NT, vows were made by JESUS (e.g., Matt. 5:18; John 1:51; cf. Matt. 26:63-64)
 - B. Law demanded FULFILLING your vows (Lev. 5:4-6; Jos. 9:20)
 - 1. It is SIN to SWEAR an oath you KNOW to be FALSE
 - 2. It is SIN to BREAK an oath you INTENDED to KEEP
- II. Integrity DISTORTED
 - A. Tradition DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN vows
 - 1. Vows made in GOD'S NAME or in reference to GOD were BINDING

2. ANY OTHER vows were NOT
- B. Making FRIVOLOUS oaths had become commonplace
 - C. Making OATHS had become an elaborate means of DECEPTION

III. Integrity DESCRIBED (Matt. 5:34-37)

- A. Jesus forbids DECEPTIVE oaths
- B. Jesus forbids CASUAL oaths
- C. Jesus demands PERFECT HONESTY
 1. Your "YES" must ALWAYS mean "YES"
 2. Your "NO" must ALWAYS mean "NO"
- D. Therefore, EVERYONE is an OATH-BREAKER
 1. Demonstrates the IMPOSSIBILITY of PERFECT righteousness
 2. Demands the GIFT of God's GRACE in CHRIST