

## “Swear Not”

James 5:12-

**Breaking one’s oath is the same as blaspheming God’s name.**

**James 5:12** — *“But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.”*

I. Believers should not swear in order \_\_\_\_\_.

A. James emphasized the importance of not sinning by breaking one’s oath.

**V12** *“But above all, my brethren, do not swear,”*

1. **“swear”** –It is a reference to \_\_\_\_\_. Not referring to four letter words or cussing.
2. **“above all”** - places this command above the previous command, and hold this offense as even more severe than the rest. Why?

II. Breaking one’s oath is the same as \_\_\_\_\_.

A. James commands not to swear by anything that God has made.

**V12b** ... *do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath;*

1. Habitual liars find themselves having to make promises in order to get people to believe them.

B. Jesus previously corrected those who tried to avoid the name of God in their oath making –

**Matthew 5:34–37** — <sup>34</sup> *“But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> “Nor shall you make an oath by your head,*

*for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> “But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.”*

1. The motivation for this sinful practice of making false oaths is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. False oath-making is the worst of lies because we have wrapped it in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Even broken promises fall under the same severity under the reputation of a \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Continual oath-breaking is a nonverbal declaration that God is incapable of \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Saying false things about God is the definition of blaspheme.
2. Many felt ok with breaking their oaths, as long as they used promises that did not contain the name of the Lord.

III. Followers of Christ should always keep \_\_\_\_\_.

A. James reiterates Jesus’ command that a disciple’s word should suffice.

**V12c** ... *but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.”*

1. We should all take our own words seriously.
2. We can build our reputation as a truth speaker, consistently doing what we said we will do.

B. Continual \_\_\_\_\_ will bring one to the judgment of an unbelievers.

**THINK, PRAY and OBEY:**

1. Mend the broken oaths of your life.
2. Commit yourself to be speaker of truth.
3. Commit your life this morning to follow Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life.

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### I. Believers should not swear in order to be believed.

#### C. James emphasized the importance of not sinning by breaking one’s oath.

**V12** *“But above all, my brethren, do not swear,”*

1. **“swear”** –It is a reference to oath-taking. Not referring to four letter words or cussing.
2. **“above all”** - places this command above the previous command, and hold this offense as even more severe than the rest. Why?

### II. Breaking one’s oath is the same as blaspheming God’s name.

#### A. James commands not to swear by anything that God has made.

**V12b** ... *do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath;*

1. Habitual liars find themselves having to make promises in order to get people to believe them.

#### B. Jesus previously corrected those who tried to avoid the name of God in their oath making –

**Matthew 5:34–37** — <sup>34</sup> *“But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> “Nor shall you make an oath by your head,*

*for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> “But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.”*

1. The motivation for this sinful practice of making false oaths is evil.
2. False oath-making is the worst of lies because we have wrapped it in Godly appearance.
3. Even broken promises fall under the same severity under the reputation of a Christian.

#### C. Continual oath-breaking is a nonverbal declaration that God is incapable of binding the offender to his oath.

1. Saying false things about God is the definition of blaspheme.
2. Many felt ok with breaking their oaths, as long as they used promises that did not contain the name of the Lord.

### III. Followers of Christ should always keep their word.

#### A. James reiterates Jesus’ command that a disciple’s word should suffice.

**V12c** ... *but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.”*

1. We should all take our own words seriously.
2. We can build our reputation as a truth speaker, consistently doing what we said we will do.

#### B. Continual promise-breaking will bring one to the judgment of an unbelievers.

#### **THINK, PRAY and OBEY:**

1. Mend the broken oaths of your life.
2. Commit yourself to be speaker of truth.
3. Commit your life this morning to follow Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life.