

# Watch Your Tongue

James 5: 12

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Series: Practical Christianity

# 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.

[New American Standard Bible: 1995 update. \(1995\). \(Jas 5:12\). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.](#)

# Six Types of Swearing

- Swearing by oaths – James emphasis.
- Habitual, frivolous swearing (Ro 3: 14, Eph 4: 29; 5: 3 - 5)
- Hypocritical swearing (James 3: 9 – 10)
- Silent, universal swearing – swearing in the heart. (Ecclesiastes 7: 22)
- Evasive swearing – Christian swearing by substituting the bad words.
- Ego swearing – swearing to boost ego

# Do Not Swear

- Above all makes it a preeminent command.
  - In context persecution and trial can cause one to swear.
- Do not swear by heaven, earth or anything else.
  - Compare with Jesus' words (Matt 5: 33 -37; 23:16 – 22).
  - This is not forbidding oaths before courts, or before God, like in ordination or marriage.
  - This is forbidding making oaths in everyday common speech.
  - Your word should be your bond, and your Christian example should make all oaths needless.

# Motivated to Speak Truthfully.

- So that you do not fall under judgment.
- Swearing falsely is taking God's name in vain.
- Christians may lie on occasion, but it can never be an unbroken pattern in their lives.
  - If such is the case, they are proving to not be Christian.
  - The point is that those who continue to blaspheme God's holy name through lying oaths face eternal damnation.
  - Jesus said we will give an account for every word we speak. (Matthew 12: 36)

# Conclusion

- The most telling mark of Christianity is their honesty demonstrated in what they say.
- Normal day to day speech is not peppered with oaths because a Christian's bond is his or her word.
- When a Christian gives his or her word they will keep it even if what they promised was foolish.
- It is uncharacteristic of Christianity is to have to pepper our speech with foul words and oaths so that we are more believable.