



The Law

- Leviticus 19:12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the Lord.
- Numbers 30:2 If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.
- Deut. 23:21 When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you.



The Law

So the law taught that if you make an
oath in the name of God, you better
keep it



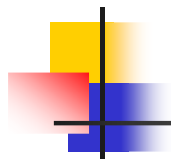
The Abuse

- The Pharisee's attitude was that if you use the name of God you were to keep it, but if not it was of lesser importance (Matt. 23:16-23)



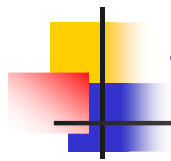
But I Say to You,

But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. (Matt. 5:33-37)



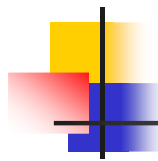
Is He Condemning All Oaths? No!

- God swore by Himself (Heb. 6:13-18; 7:20, 21)
- Jesus confessed under oath to being the Christ, God's Son (Matt. 26:63, 64)
- Paul often called God to witness to the truth of his affirmations (2 Cor. 1:23; Gal. 1:20)



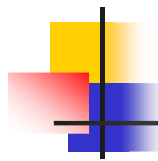
What Then?

- He is condemning oaths that
 - Are intended to deceive the hearer.
 - Designed to impress the hearer
 - Fail to honor God
- Jesus is saying, “Make your life so transparently pure that your simplest statement is easily accepted as valid by your obvious sincerity? Live your whole life under oath! (Col. 3:17) Make your simplest declarations in the full knowledge that God witnesses them and holds you accountable for them. Consequently, all your words must be holy and kept true.” (Fowler)



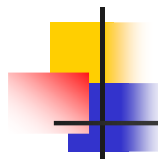
Remember

- Matt. 12:36, 37 But I say to you that for **every idle word** men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.
- For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.



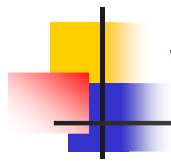
We Can See the Wisdom in This

- Because of what swearing does to God
 - It calls upon Him to witness to, to justify, or to guarantee the truthfulness of relatively unimportant matters.
 - It profanes His holy Name when we call upon God to witness what is later discovered to be false.



We Can See the Wisdom in This

- Because of what swearing does to the one who swears
 - The necessity to guarantee the truthfulness of some statement by means of an oath immediately puts in question the truthfulness of all other statements not made under oath
 - Swearing can in the minds of some justify lying when not under oath.
 - Because rash or wrong vows must be broken when inconvenient or impossible circumstances render their fulfillment absurd or illegal. (cf. Jephthah, Jdg. 11:30-34; Herod, Mt 14:7).



We Can See the Wisdom in This

- Because of what swearing does to others
 - Careless, unnecessary. frequent and hypocritical taking of oaths practically destroys any respect for oaths and proceeds to under mind trust among men