fairwaybaptistchurch

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Authentic Faith – James 5:12

An oath had three parts:
1) It was attesting to the ***truth***
2) It was calling for God to ***witness***
3) It was invoking God's ***punishment*** if you violated your word

Deuteronomy 6:12; Psalm 15:1,4
God understands that we live in a fallen world in which it is good that at ***critical*** moments in their lives, sinful people are confronted with the ***seriousness*** of what they are about to say or do.

Matthew 5:33
What Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount is dealing with is religious cleverness that ***redefines*** a law of God so that what they are doing is not actually ***breaking*** the law.

Matthew 5:34-37
He is rejecting ***every*** kind of swearing that uses an oath for ***trickery*** or deception.

Everything I say out of my mouth should be a ***promise*** of truth that will never be violated.

Application:
1) Kids buy into whatever they see matches between your ***mouth*** and ***life*** – for good or bad.
2) This passage condemns playful "***just kidding***" moments so that we never need to convince anyone of the truthfulness of our words.
3) We need to revere truth because of our ***witness***. If we need to make oaths to insure truthfulness, why would people believe us when we tell them that Jesus is the only way to salvation?

James 1:26; 2:12; 3:2-11; 4:11; 5:12

Our speech should and will reflect our ***hearts***. Where the Spirit of God has transformed the heart, there will be ***honest*** speech.

NOTES