

## **Matthew 5:33-37**

### **Christian Integrity**

#### **Introduction:**

We all enjoy being around people who possess integrity. These are people whom we can trust because they are honest. There is completeness about them such a person, we sometimes say he or she is a person of great character that is, such a person possess a decency and uprightness. Employers do all they can to hire people who possess some semblance of honesty and often the interviewer ask for character references from friends who are not relatives. Especially in the Christian Church we would expect from its members the quality of integrity. I noticed that one of the qualifications of the deacon ad deaconess is not to be a person who is “double tongued” (dilogos) “dual speech” which means, saying one thing to one person and another to another with the intent to deceive. A person who changes the story depending on who he is speaking to, this person who cannot be trusted should not be a deacon. The Apostle Paul addresses Christian behavior in capsule form says, “Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.” (Eph. 4:15

#### **I. Perversion of Vows and Oaths**

##### **A. The honor of our word – Ex0. 20:16; 7; Col.3:9**

1. Mosaic law – Deut. 6:13; Lev. 19:12

##### **B. Mosaic Legislation**

1. To control men who had a tendency to lie one another
2. To restrict oath taking to serious and important matters.

##### **C. Distinctions:**

1. The Jewish custom – evasive
2. The oath was sworn by things rather than God’s name.

##### **D. You cannot keep God out of the transaction:**

1. Because God is Omnipresent
2. Because God is Omniscient – Turn To: Matthew 23:16-22

#### **II. Legitimate use of Vows and Oaths**

##### **A. Defining Vows and Oaths:**

1. A vow is made to God alone. A vow concerns man’s duty to God.
2. An oath concerns man’s duty to man. In an oath man calls upon God to witness and Judge what he says or promises to men. Psalm 116:12-14; Ecc. 5:4,5

##### **B. Confessing Christ publically – Matt. 10:32**

##### **C. Church membership vows:**

##### **D. Men taking Oaths:**

1. Abraham sent his servant out to find a wife for his son Isaac by an oath – Gen. 24
2. Joseph extracted an oath from his brothers – Gen. 50:18-25
3. Jonathan asked an oath of David – II Sam. 21:7cf. II Sam.9:11,13
4. Jesus trial before the high priest adjured Him before the living God – Matt. 26:63,64
5. Paul gives oath by witness of the Holy Spirit – Rom. 9:1
6. God Himself swears by His Name since there is no Name higher – Heb. 6:13-20

##### **E. Application to the church – Col. 3:9**

1. Ordinary conversation – Jam. 5:12 (Sinclair Ferguson)
2. Our word must be our bond lest we fall prey to the devil –v.37

Reformed Presbyterian Church, 207 South First Street, Fulton, NY 13069  
Web Site [fultonrpc.org](http://fultonrpc.org)  
7/15/2012