

Jesus on Oaths

Matthew 5:33-37

1. The Presenting Issue: swearing _____

2. The Deeper Issue: personal _____

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. Have you ever been called upon to testify in court? Have you ever taken an oath of office? Why do you suppose we're asked to swear these oaths? Do you think they're necessary? Do you think they're effective? Given our secular culture, will swearing an oath to tell the truth cause a dishonest person to tell the truth?
2. Of the four ways Pastor Ken mentioned that we are inclined to misrepresent the truth (exaggeration, over-promising, loopholes and partial truth), which is the greatest temptation for you?
3. How much do you care what others think of you? How does that influence the things you say and do (e.g., what you say to them, how you dress, how much you admit of what you eat, drink, read or watch on television)? How can we make what others think of us a smaller factor?
4. How do you greet someone you're not very excited to see? How do you explain why you haven't been in contact? What might happen if we were as honest as Pastor Ken's socially awkward friend Harry?
5. Read Ephesians 4:17-32. What's the "therefore" in v25 there for? What has Paul said in v17-24 that he wants people to act on now? What's the basis for our actions toward one another, from v32?
6. Read Psalm 51:1-17. How does the grace of God free us to be people of integrity?
7. How can we help each other to grow as people of integrity?