

2023 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. In the time since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set for 2023?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." (Exodus 20:7).

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen". (Ephesians 4:29)

As discussed in sermon, the third commandment really has much more to do with the misuse of God's name in swearing an oath than it does with foul or profane language. The above passage from Ephesians addresses the use of profane language more directly.

1. Does this distinction (profanity vs. oath-swearing) surprise you? Are you more familiar with this commandment's use in prohibiting foul language or with a view to oath-making?
2. How does this fact change the way that you interpret this commandment?
3. What other misuses of God's name might this commandment address? Think of specific examples from our world today.

Discussion Questions Set #2

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Matthew 5:33-37)

"Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No". (James 5:12)

"Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD." (Leviticus 19:12)

"When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said." (Numbers 30:2)

1. In sermon, it was suggested that this issue of false swearing has a whole lot to do with followers of Jesus living a life of integrity. What is integrity in your opinion? How would you gauge if a person lived with integrity or not?
2. Why might integrity be of particular importance to the follower of Jesus?
3. How does integrity impact our ability to:
 - a. Love God with all of our hearts, minds, spirits and strength?
 - b. Love our neighbours as ourselves?
4. How might an empty, frivolous, or insincere use of God's name communicate an empty, frivolous, or insincere faith in Him?
5. Why might it be significant that the follower of Jesus simply allows his or her 'yes' and 'no' to mean 'yes' and 'no'? How might oath-making complicate this?
6. In sermon, we discussed the loophole sanctioned, disingenuous behaviour of the Pharisees and religious elite of Israel of Christ's day (i.e. swearing by Jerusalem vs. swearing 'toward' Jerusalem). Have you ever experienced the tailoring of language to avoid responsibility for one's promises before?