

“Christians Have Integrity!” (Matthew 5:33–37)  
GCC, Morning worship, 10/16/22

**Introduction–Christians Have Integrity in their Words, commitments, vows, promises, and covenants!**

- I. Hear the *Radicality* of the Prohibition and Speak the Truth!
  - A. He’s talking about *oaths* and *vows*
  - B. The *Pharisaical* Perversion–**Surrogate Oaths** (vv. 34–36)
  - C. The *Human* Perversion (v. 37)
  - D. The *Heart* of the Matter–Three Reasons Why Christians Tell the Truth Simply and Plainly
    1. Because we wish to imitate the Father of Lights (Jas 1:17) and not the Father of Lies (John 8:44)
    2. Because Reality and Truth are *Friends* not *Foes*
    3. Because Christians *uphold* the Law rather than *overthrow* the Law
  
- II. Avoid the Blackhole of *Biblicism* and Strike *Balance!*
  - A. **The Anabaptist Tradition**–A Sketch of the Scourge of Biblicism
  - B. Systematic Theology as the Antidote to Biblicism
    1. The Reformed Tradition has seen a place for oaths and vows
    2. Keep in mind the nature of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount
    3. God, Jesus, and Paul all Took Vows/Oaths (Matt 26:63–64; 2 Cor 1:23; Gal 1:20; 1 Thess 5:27)
  
- III. Some Areas of Application
  - A. Our words to Christ’s bride
  - B. Our words to our children
  - C. Our words to our spouses
  - D. Our words to ourselves!
  - E. Our words to our Lord
  - F. Our Lord’s word to us (Heb 6:17–20)

**Questions for Application and Discussion:**

1. What was the Pharisaical perversion that Jesus sought to correct in his teaching on vows?
2. What was the human perversion that Jesus sought to correct in his teaching on vows?
3. Why do we lie?
4. Why is it important for our “yes” to be “yes” and our “no” to be “no?”