

Matthew 5:33-37 - "The Truth in and about us"

"Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way unto him who is the head."
Eph 4:15

Announcements

Want to keep up on what's going on around here? Drop your info card in the offering plate and we'll add you to the email newsletter list.

Foundations Class will restart in 1/09!**Advent Conspiracy Market is open today!****Communities:**

This is where we gather to pray, study and encourage one another as part of the work of the Gospel. We would love to get to know you more, and this is one of the best ways to get planted /attached as a part of Seaside.

Please consider joining a Community to strengthen not only your family, but also the larger community.

Contact
eric@seasidechurch.com
for info on where groups meet or to lead/host one.

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"What is an oath?" *It is an appeal made to God in public, calling upon Him to witness a statement made in connection w/ an event or fact, past present or future. By means of the oath, men invoke the omniscient deity to avenge the truth. How can Jesus say that such an oath is "sin"? ...The answer is to be sought in His concern for complete truthfulness.* -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What is truth? There are many definitions of "truth" in the world, but the core our accepted truth as believers, and as presented in and based on the Word (see John 17). The base truth about us is that we are sinners. It is only because of Christ that we can know truth. It is only *in Christ* that we can live wholly in truth and in unity.

"Complete truthfulness is only possible where sin has been uncovered & forgiven by Jesus. ...the truthfulness which Jesus demands from His followers is self-abrogation, which does not hide sin. Nothing is hidden, everything is brought into the Light of Day." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The root sin here? The religious leaders would use the oath as a means to hide from the truth, excusing themselves from following through on promises and pledges (or the consequences that might follow after). They feared man and what he thought of them more than God and what He called them to be as part of being His people. They most likely, as we also do, struggled with hasty words and vows, seeking to appease men and their consciences through promises, partial truths, and cleverly crafted/spun conversations and statements.

"We cannot follow Christ unless we live in revealed truth before God and man" D.B.

The issue here is that in God there is *"...no darkness at all"* (I John 1.5). The work of us being sanctified means that we are coming in to a greater knowledge of Him (which is to come to know what is really true and pure), being made into a likeness of His son (Rom. 6.5) - *"...put on the new self, which in the **likeness** of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."* (Eph. 4.24). Our words should be based on what we can actually do (both because we want to and because we had the means to as well) and believe, *in Christ*, to be completely true. Our lives should reflect an inner heart that seeks to have truth reign in every corner of our lives - because He is truth. No oath should ever be needed to reinforce that.

"The cross is God's truth about us, and therefore it is the only power that can make us truthful. ...When we know the cross we are no longer afraid of the truth" D.B.

But what if we make a promise that we cannot keep? Simply enough, we repent and confess our inability to do so, and we do this as soon as we know that we are unable to so that the lie will no longer be perpetuated and allowed to cause bitterness and regret to take root in our lives. **"Lie" seems like such a strong word here - what if I just made a mistake and overestimated my ability to follow-through?** This is the subtleness of sin - often it is not committed by overt action (or commission), but by neglecting to count the cost (or omission). Any act that hurts or can dissolve relationships stands against the truth and unity of God. We should be prayerful and seeking Him in all things, because in our affections and trust in Him we also rely on Him to guide us through our daily life (Heb 12.1-2).
