

“Plastic Surgery”

Mike Tuttle, Senior Minister

It is possible to believe all the right stuff - to use all the right words - to look like you have your stuff together - BUT - the reality of your life is quite different.

Matthew 5:33-37 (NIV)

33"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' 34**BUT** I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35or by the earth, for it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

“One who has given his word and who changes it is as bad as an idolater.”

“The world stands fast on 3 things - on justice, on truth, and on peace.”
Mishnah Avot 1:18

“Four persons are shut out of God: the scoffer, the hypocrite, the liar, and the retailer of slander.”

Fear the LORD your God and serve Him. Hold fast to Him and take your oaths in His name.
Deuteronomy 10:20 (NIV)

2 Unacceptable Practices In Jesus' Day
_____ swearing
_____ swearing

Don't swear to make your word seem more truthful, and don't swear in order to try to wiggle out of it later.

“For a man to train up a child in the way he should go, he must walk that way himself.”
Abraham Lincoln

“There is nothing so powerful as truth – and often, nothing so strange.”
Daniel Webster

“The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in those who tell the truth.”
Proverbs 12:22 (NLT)

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” Revelation 21:8 (NIV)

Two Reasons This Is HUGE

My words affect how _____

My words affect how _____

So How Do I Represent God Well? (Because I do represent Him)

And since you know that he cares, let your language show it. Don't add words like "I swear to God" to your own words. Don't show your impatience by concocting oaths to hurry up God. Just say yes or no. Just say what is true. That way, your language can't be used against you.
James 5:12 (Msg)

I need to watch what promises _____

I need to keep my promises even when _____

I need to keep my promises even when I _____

“The test of character comes when being truthful endangers what you want.”
Ann Hibbard