

**“” Love Does” Keeps Promises:  
How to Make Your Word Shatterproof”**

Greg Wendschlag July 9, 2017

**“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us...” Eph. 5:1-2**

*“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.” But I tell you, do not swear 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. Simply let your “Yes” be “Yes” and your “No”, “No”; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” Mt. 5:33-37*

*“For you have exalted above all things Your **name** and Your **word**.” Ps. 138:2*

*Your character defines your name. Your actions define your character.  
Is your character weighty enough that your word can stand on its own?*

**The way it used to be...**

*“You’ve heard that it was said...don’t break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.” Mt. 5:33*

- “You shall not swear by my name falsely.” Lev. 9:12
- “When you swear an oath you must do everything you said.” Num. 30:2
- “If you don’t make a vow you are not guilty.” Dt. 23:21,22

Two Kinds of Oaths

1. **Binding oaths** – oaths with God’s name attached
2. **Nonbinding oaths** – oaths when God’s name is not attached

The attention was on the **kind of vow** and not the vow itself. Mt. 23:16-22

**The Love Does way....**

*“But I tell you, do not swear 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. Simply let your “Yes” be “Yes” and your “No”, “No”; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” Mt. 5:34-37*

*You can't take God out of any transaction. There is nothing in this world that doesn't belong to God. Whether God is named or not doesn't matter. Any promise we make is unto the Lord.*

### **Why do we an oath is necessary?**

1. Because we want to **reassure** someone that we are sincere.
2. Because we want to **convince** someone that we are sincere.
3. Because **we don't trust** people without something greater attached to their words.

### **Why is keeping our word important?**

1. Your **character** is measured by the promises you keep.
2. Keeping promises keeps your **relationships healthy**.
3. **God's reputation** is established by the integrity of His people.

### **7 ways to let our “Yes” be “Yes” and our “No” “No”**

1. Realize your reputation is determined by your word.
2. Make sure you can keep the promise before you make it.
3. Make friends with the phrase; “Let me get back to you on that”. And then get back to them on that!
4. Avoid making a promise in order to make a person feel good.
5. Learn that saying, “No” is better than saying, “Yes” and reneging.
6. Don't allow pressure situations to force you into a bad promise.
7. Realize God's reputation is determined by your word.

*“A man must lead a life which will gain more confidence in him than ever an oath can do.”*  
Isocrates

***Don't let the broken promises of this world keep you from trusting the promises of God.***

### **Discussion Starters for Your Groups InCommon**

1. Tell of a time when someone breaking his or her word hurt you.
2. What happens to your confidence in people when they break their word?
3. How do prenuptial agreements hurt marriages?
4. Anything more than your “yes” or “no” is from the evil one. What does that mean?
5. How does exaggeration fit into this topic?
6. Do you think little lies are necessary to keep peace in your relationships?