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## #13 “Let Your ‘Yes’ Be ‘Yes’”

*James 5:12*

TODD DUGARD | JUNE 8, 2014

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THE  
**NO-NONSENSE  
GUIDE**  
TO AN  
**EXTRAORDINARY  
CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
- THE BOOK OF  
JAMES

### Warming Up

1. Pastor Todd mentioned an Ipsos-Reid poll on the 40 most-trusted professions. Which professions do you consider to be of high integrity? Which ones do you believe are not worthy of trust? Why?

### Digging In

2. *Are you a person of your word? Recognize the seriousness.*
  - Why do you suppose that James says, “But above all . . .”? Given everything that he has already addressed in this letter, what is he getting at here?
  - Pastor Todd highlighted a couple definitions of “integrity.” Unpack these. How would you state the meaning in your own words?
  - If you have everything in life but lose your integrity, what do you have? If you lose everything in life but have your integrity, what do you have? Implications?
3. *Are you a person of your word? Check your words.*
  - James writes, “Do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath.” This sounds like a blanket prohibition on all oath taking. How do you square this with passages like Leviticus 19:12; Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21; Hebrews 6:13-17? What is going on here?
  - How is James’ statement here similar in reasoning to Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:34-37 and 23:16-22? What situation are the two brothers addressing?
4. *Are you a person of your word? Keep it simple.*
  - Biblical scholar F. F. Bruce writes, “No one demands an oath from those whose word is known to be their bond.” Discuss.
  - What is James getting at when he says, “Let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no”? What does this look like at work, at church, in your family, and in your relationship with Christ? How are you at doing what you say you will do?
5. *Are you a person of your word? Consider the consequences.*
  - Make a list of some of the everyday consequences of a life that lacks integrity. How might God bring another level of consequences?

### Breaking Out

6. To what degree are you a person of integrity? In what area(s) of your life do you find it most difficult to be trustworthy? How can your small group members help you take intentional steps in the right direction? Pray together that God would grow you in this.