

Subject: God's Moral Law – The Ninth Commandment

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-16

The Ten Commandments are God's moral laws. God has natural laws that govern the physical world and moral laws that govern the spiritual world. All of these laws are given to protect something precious: God's character, God's name, God's day, marriage and the family, personal property, and the 8th command protects a person's reputation. The original intent of this command has to do with a witness in a court of law who must tell the truth, but in its broader application it simply means don't lie about anything. A false witness in a legal sense could endanger the life or liberty of an innocent person or destroy a person's reputation. The broader scope of this command is **Leviticus 19:11** *Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.* Let's look at this commandment in three ways:

1. THE VIRTUE OF TRUTH

Just how important is truth?

A. God the Father is associated with truth

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 ³ *Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. ⁴ He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

B. Jesus Christ is associated with truth

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

John 18:37-38 ³⁷ *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. ³⁸ Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.*

C. The Holy Spirit is associated with truth

John 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

D. Scripture is the source of truth

John 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

E. God's judgment is based on truth

Romans 2:2 *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

F. Acceptable worship is based on truth

John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

G. The believer has spiritual protection in truth

Ephesians 6:14 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...*

H. The church is established on truth

1 Timothy 3:15 *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

I. We should seek and treasure the truth

Proverbs 23:23 *Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. Get the truth at all costs and don't give it up for any price.*

J. We should live by the truth

3 John 1:4 *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

Ephesians 4:25 *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.*

2. THE VICE OF LYING

A. Satan is the source of all lying

Genesis 3:1-4 ¹ *Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?* ² *And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:* ³ *But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.* ⁴ *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.*

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. From the beginning Satan has used lies. Every lie has been spawned by Satan. When a person lies, he is acting like his father, the devil. Never is a person more like the devil than when he lies, and never is a person more like Christ than when he tells the truth.*

B. God hates lying

Proverbs 12:22 *Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.*

Proverbs 6:16-19 ¹⁶ *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:* ¹⁷ *A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,* ¹⁸ *An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,* ¹⁹ *A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. Two of these seven involve lying.*

C. Lying can become a habit

Proverbs 14:25 *A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.*

A man took the witness stand and the oath was given: “Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?” He said: “Sure, I’ll try anything once.”

D. We should pray for God’s help against lying

Proverbs 30:8 *Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:*

E. Lying and listening to lies are both sinful

Proverbs 17:4 *A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.* It’s wrong to gossip and slander and it’s also wrong to listen to it. It is unlawful to steal and it is unlawful to receive stolen goods. Someone said, “He who gossips ought to be hung by his tongue and he who listens ought to be hung by his ears.” If a person says, “I just don’t know why people want to tell me everything.” Maybe it’s because you’re the kind of person that wants to hear it.

3. THE VIOLATION OF THIS COMMAND

A. False testimony and perjury

Exodus 23:1 *Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.* The person who tells lies may or may not do so in a courtroom, but there is another court coming, the great white throne judgment. President Nixon got in trouble because of those tapes. Some are going to be in trouble because of the books.

B. Half-truths

A half-truth is equal to a whole lie. Don’t be a person who says one thing, but insinuates something else.

C. Flattery

Proverbs 26:28 *A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.*

Psalms 55:21 *The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords*

D. Exaggeration or embellishment – Fishermen are known for this.

E. Misrepresentation

Politicians are sometimes guilty of spinning things the way they want people to hear, but they aren’t the only ones who know how to spin.

F. Gossip and rumors

Proverbs 26:22 *The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

Rumors are so quick to spread and can do great damage. Sir Winston Churchill said “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.” A church had just called their new pastor. One day a woman said this to an eager listener, “The preacher’s wife went to the meeting and the pastor came into the room in anger and took her out.” The preacher found out about it and here’s what he said, “I’d like to say four things about this rumor. First, I would never interfere with my wife’s choices. Second, my wife could never have attended that meeting. Third, I would never force my wife from such a meeting. And fourth, I don’t even have a wife.” It was rumors that caused Jesus to be crucified. He said, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” They started a rumor that Jesus was going to destroy the temple, when He was talking about His death and resurrection.

G. Remaining silent when truth is at stake

When you are silent and you know that the truth is not being stated or only half truth is being stated, then you are guilty of allowing false testimony to continue.

The Bible says that the devil is the father of lies, and now we know who is in his family: all liars, all perjurers, all who promote lies, all who tell half-truths, all flatterers, all exaggerators, all who embellish the facts, all who misrepresent the facts, all gossips, and all cowards who are afraid to speak up for the truth.

Why is there so much lying? It’s the age-old problem of the human heart.

Matthew 15:19 *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.*

Psalms 58:3 *The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.* You don’t have to teach children to lie. You have to teach them to tell the truth.

We need to know God’s ultimate punishment for all liars.

Revelation 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Revelation 21:27 *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

The cure for lying is the new birth.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Psalms 51:6 *Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*