

***“O How Love I Thy Law!”***  
***The Ninth Commandment***  
***“False Witness”***  
***Exodus 20:16***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Open Our Bibles Back Up To:
  - The Ten Commandments:
    - As Found In:
      - Exodus 20 - Where - In 20:16:
        - We Find The Ninth Commandment:
          - “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor!”
2. This Commandment:
  - Is Part Of The Second Tablet:
    - Of God's Moral Law:
      - Which Pertains To:
        - As Jesus Taught:
          - “Loving Our Neighbors As Ourselves!
  - And - When You Love Your Neighbor:
    - It Means That You:
      - Will Not Seek To Injure Them:
        - In Any Way!
    - In The Sixth, Seventh, And Eighth Commandments:
      - We Are Told That Love:
        - Will Do No Injury:
          - To Our Neighbors:
            - By Our Deeds!
              - “Thou Shalt Not Kill!”
              - “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery!”
              - “Thou Shalt Not Steal!”
    - In This Ninth Commandment:
      - We Are Told That Love:
        - Will Do No Injury:
          - To Our Neighbors:
            - In Our Words!
    - And - In The Tenth Commandment:
      - We Are Told That Love:
        - Will Do No Injury:
          - Toward Our Neighbors:
            - In Our Innermost Thoughts!
  - So - The Focus Of The Ninth Commandment:
    - Is Loving Our Neighbors:
      - With Our Words:
        - Which Are Always To Be:
          - Words Of Truth!
3. Now - The Primary Reason:
  - We Are Given This Commandment:
    - In God's Moral Law:
      - Is Because - As We Considered Last Sunday:
        - God Himself:
          - Is True & Is Truth Itself!
  - This Is The Doctrine:
    - That Underlies:
      - This Vital Commandment!
    - God Is True:
      - In His Own Nature:
        - In His Own Works - And:
          - In His Own Words!

- This Means:
  - All That God **Is**:
  - Is So!
  - All That God **Does**:
  - Is So! And:
  - All That God **Says**:
  - Is So!

4. God Is True!

- But - We - In Our Fallen Condition:
  - Are Not!
    - Lying Isn't Merely:
      - A "Second Nature" To Us:
        - It Is Our:
          - Primary Nature!
- Even As We Are Told:
  - In Romans 3:4 - Which Says:
    - "Let God Be True, But Every Man A Liar!"
      - No Matter How Truthful:
        - A Man Seems To Be:
          - His Heart Remains "Deceitful And Desperately Wicked!" (Jeremiah 17:9)
            - "Who Can Know It?" - The Lord Adds!

5. Well - The Lord **Does** Know Our Deceitful Hearts:

- And So - He Seeks To:
  - Reveal Them To Us!
    - And That Is Why:
      - This Ninth Commandment Is:
        - "Profitable . . . For [Our] Reproof" As Well!

6. So - What Does This Commandment Entail?

- Well - Since God Is Always True:
  - Proverbs 6:16-19 - Which We Looked At Last Week:
    - Is Also - Always True!
      - "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] an abomination unto him: / A proud look, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, / An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, / **A false witness that speaketh lies**, and he that soweth discord among brethren!"
  - God Hates All Lies!
    - And That Includes:

1. **All Public Lies!**

- This Is The Kind Of Lie:
  - Specifically Addressed In The Ninth Commandment:
    - Exodus 20:16 - "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour!"
  - This Is The Kind Of Lie:
    - That Lays A Charge Against Someone:
      - That Is False - And:
        - Even Swears To That Charge:
          - To The Hurt Of One's Neighbor!
    - Proverbs 15:18 Says This:
      - About A False Witness - "A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow!"
  - This Is One Of The Reasons:
    - Why In Both:
      - The Old & The New Testaments:
        - Convictions Of Crimes:
          - Could Only Be Based Off Of:
            - Multiple Eye-Witness Testimony!
    - For The Nation Of Israel:

- In Deuteronomy 19:15:
  - We Are Told - “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established!”
- But Also - In The Church Of Christ:
  - We Find The Same Principle:
    - For The Church As A Whole:
      - Matthew 18:16 - “But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established!”
    - For The Leaders In The Church:
      - 1 Timothy 5:19 - “Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses!”
  - These Rules Were Put Into Place:
    - To Guard Against The Danger Of:
      - A False Witness!
- But - Isn't This Too:
  - The Kind Of Lie:
    - That Led To The Crucifixion Of Our Savior As Well?
      - In **Mark 14:55-61** - We Read - “And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. / For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. / And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, / We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. / But neither so did their witness agree together. / And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what [is it which] these witness against thee? / But he held his peace, and answered nothing!”
  - Not Only Did The Chief Priests:
    - Ignore The Ninth Commandment:
      - Against False Witnesses Against Our Savior:
        - They Even Ignored Their Testimonies - When Their Testimonies Did Not Agree!
- Public Lies:
  - Touch The Heart:
    - Of God's True Nature:
      - Like Nothing Else, It Would Seem!
  - And So He Says:
    - 20:16 - “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour!”
    - God Hates All Public Lies!

\* God Hates:

**2. All Personal Lies!**

- This Is The Kind Of Lie:
  - That Is Done Face-To-Face:
    - To Your Neighbor!
      - Where You Seek To Deceive Him:
        - For One Reason Or Another!
  - Matthew Henry Defines This Kind Of Lie:
    - As “Speaking Falsely In Any Matter, Lying, Equivocating, And Any Way Devising And Designing To Deceive Our Neighbor!”
  - So Often:
    - This Kind Of Lie:
      - Stems From:
        - Pride!
- When You:
  - Fail In Your Duty:
    - Out Of Pride - You May Lie:
      - To Suppress The Truth - And Convince Your Neighbor:

- That You:
  - Actually Fulfilled That Which You Did Not Perform!
- So - In Contrast With:
  - The Nature Of God:
    - What You Do:
      - Is Not So - Is Not True!
      - It's A Lie!
- When You:
  - Fail In Your Demeanor:
    - Out Of Pride - You May Lie:
      - To Impress And Convince Your Neighbor:
        - That You:
          - Are More Than You Really Are!
  - So - In Contrast With:
    - The Nature Of God:
      - What You Say:
        - Is Not So - Is Not True!
        - It's A Lie!
- So - Whether You Lie:
  - To Impress - Or:
    - You Lie:
      - To Suppress:
        - Either Way:
          - Its Still A Lie!
  - And - 20:16 - "Thou shalt not bear false witness against – Or Even To – thy neighbour!"
    - God Hates All Personal Lies!

\* God Also Hates:

### 3. ***All Private Lies!***

- This Is The Kind Of Lie:
  - That Is Done About Your Neighbor:
    - Behind Their Back:
      - And - For Their Harm!
- In His Commentary:
  - On The Ten Commandments:
    - Baptist Pastor John Gill Describes:
      - Private Lies As Those:
        - "By Whispering, Talebearing, Backbiting, Slandering, By Telling Lies Of Him, Traducing [Humiliating] His Character By Innuendos, Sly Insinuations, And Evil Suggestions . . . To Hurt Character, Credit, And Reputation!"
    - Talebearing:
      - Is - "Repeating A Report About A Person Without Careful Investigation . . . To Their Discredit And Dishonor!" (Redpath)
        - And Proverbs 20:19 Says This About The Talebearer - "He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips!"
    - Slander:
      - Is - "A Lie Invented And Spread With Intent To Do Harm!" (Redpath)
        - And Proverbs 10:18 Says This About The Slanderer - "He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool!"
  - Private Liars:
    - Take On The Character:
      - Of A Serpent:
        - Talking About Someone:
          - With A Forked Tongue!
            - Saying One Thing, But Meaning Another!
    - In Fact - When You Lie:
      - In This Way - Or - In Any Way:
        - It Is An Expression Of The Nature:

- Of The Devil Himself!
- As Jesus Described Him:
  - In 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!"
- Since God Is True:
  - God Hates Lies!
    - All Public Lies:
      - Against One's Neighbor!
    - All Personal Lies:
      - To One's Neighbor! And:
    - All Private Lies:
      - About One's Neighbor!

\* But - There Is Another Category Of Lies - That Some Might Think Are OK! We Might Even Call Them:

**4. All Preserving Lies!**

- Or - "Lies Of Necessity!"
  - Some Might Point To Places In Scripture:
    - Where Someone Lies Or At Least Seems To Lie:
      - And Is Then Rewarded:
        - Or - At Least - Seems To Be Rewarded:
          - For Their Lie!
    - Some Might Point To:
      - The Hebrew Midwives:
        - And What They Told Pharaoh:
          - About The Hebrew Women:
            - As They Would Give Birth!
      - And - How Did God Respond - They Might Say:
        - To Their Lie?
          - Exodus 1:21 - "And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses!"
            - It Seems That God Was OK With Their Lie To Pharaoh!
    - Others Might Point To:
      - Rahab The Harlot:
        - Who - In Protecting The Hebrew Spies That Came To Her House In Jericho:
          - Lied To Those Who Were Searching For Them:
            - By Saying They Escaped, When, In Truth, They Were On Her Roof Hidden Under A Pile Of Flax!
        - And - How Did God Respond - They Might Say:
          - To Her Lie?
            - She Is Even Given A Place In The "Hall Of Faith" In Hebrews 11:31 - "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace!"
              - And - In James 2:25 - "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?"
                - It Would Seem That God Was OK With Her Lie, And Even Rewarded Her For It!
    - There Are Many Other Examples:
      - Of What Some Might Call:
        - "Lies Of Necessity" - Not Only In The Bible:
          - But Even - In Church History!
            - What Are We To Think:
              - Of Such Lies?
        - As Henry Trumbull:
          - In His Book - "A Lie Never Justifiable" Says This:
            - "If There Is Such A Thing [As A Lie Of Necessity], Then There Is 'A Lie That Is Not A Lie!'"
              - And That Is An Impossibility!

- A Lie Is Always A Lie:
  - Because It Is Opposed:
    - To Truth!
      - And God Is The Source Of All Truth!
- This Is Why:
  - When We Started Looking At This Commandment:
    - We Did So By Looking At:
      - The Nature Of God From Which It Flows!
        - God Is True!
    - And - As The Apostle John Tells Us:
      - In 1 John 2:21 - "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth!"
  - I Believe That - Since:
    - God Is True - In His Own Nature:
      - He Hates - And Perhaps:
        - In A Stronger Way Than All Of The Others:
          - What We Might Even Consider To Be "Lies Of Necessity!"
      - Because - We Are Making A Claim:
        - That God - Who Is True:
          - Consents:
            - To A Lie!
  - Henry Trumbull:
    - "God himself cannot lie. God cannot justify or approve a lie. Hence it follows that he who deliberately lies in order to secure a gain to himself, or to one whom he loves, must by that very act leave the service of God, and put himself for the time being under the rule of the "father of lies." Thus in an emergency which seems to a man to justify a "lie of necessity" that man's attitude toward God might be indicated in this address to him: "Lord, I should prefer to continue in your service, and I would do so if you were able and willing to help me. But I find myself in an emergency where a lie is a 'necessity,' and so I must avail myself of the help of 'the father of lies.' If I am carried through this crisis by his help, I shall be glad to resume my position in your service." The man whose whole moral nature recoils from this position, will not be led into it by the best arguments of Christian philosophers in favor of the "lie of necessity."
    - Now - There May Be Times:
      - When It May Be:
        - Both Necessary And Proper:
          - To Conceal The Truth:
            - To Those Who Are Not Entitled To Know The Truth!
        - **IE:** Even Jesus Used Parables - Not To Pervert The Truth - But To Conceal The Truth From Those Who Did Not Believe In Him!
      - But - To Use A Lie:
        - To Conceal The Truth:
          - Is Still A Lie:
            - And Is Opposed To:
              - The Truth Of God!
      - So - What About:
        - The Hebrew Midwives?
          - Well - It Can Be Argued:
            - That They Didn't Lie To Pharaoh:
              - But - Only Carefully Told Him:
                - Part Of The Truth:
                  - So That They Did Not Lie!
          - Remember What They Said To Pharaoh?
            - Exodus 1:15-21 - "And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one [was] Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: / And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see [them] upon the stools; if it [be] a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it [be] a daughter, then she shall live. / 17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. / 18 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? / 19 And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women [are] not as

the Egyptian women; for they [are] lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. / 20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. / 21 And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses!"

- Was This A Lie? Or Was This The Truth?

- 1:19? Can't Be Certain!

- But - We Can Be Certain That:

- God Did Not Reward Them:

- For A Lie!

- 1:17 - God Rewarded Them:

- For Their Fear - And:

- Forgave Them:

- Of Their Lie:

- If, In Fact, It Was One!

- Or - What About:

- Rahab The Harlot?

- Well - There's No Way Around It!

- She Did Lie To The King Of Jericho!

- Let's Look At What Was Said:

- In Joshua 2:1-6 - "And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. / 2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. / 3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. / 4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they [were]: / 5 And it came to pass [about the time] of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. / 6 But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof!"

- There's No Doubt That Rahab Lied In 2:5!

- That We Can Be Certain Of!

- But - We Can Also Be Certain That:

- God Did Not Reward Her:

- For Her Lie!

- In Hebrews & In James:

- We Are Told That God Rewarded Her:

- For Her Faith - And:

- He Would Have Forgiven Her Lie!

### Conclusion:

1. And So - We Can See From This That:

- God Hates All Lies!

- Public Lies - Against Your Neighbor!

- Personal Lies - To Your Neighbor!

- Private Lies - About Your Neighbor! And Even:

- Protective Lies - For Your Neighbor!

- But Even Though:

- God Hates All Lies:

- Lies Are Not Unpardonable Sins!

2. When You Come:

- To The Lord Jesus Christ:

- Through Repentance And Faith:

- God Can Reward Your Faith:

- And Forgive You:

- Of All Your Lies And Sins!

3. But - He Does So:

- So That You And I:

- Might Go:

- And "Sin" And "Lie" No More!

- So - Now:

- Let Us "Lie Not Against The Truth!" (James 3:14)

4. Psalm 15:1-5:

- "LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? / He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. / [He that] backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. / In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. [He that] sweareth to [his own] hurt, and changeth not. / [He that] putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these [things] shall never be moved!"

\* Do You Struggle With A Lying Tongue?

\* Do You See Just How Much Lying Goes Against The Nature Of God's Truth?

\* Will You Repent From Your Lying, And Seek Forgiveness From Christ?

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