

**Subject: *The Ninth Commandment***

**Scripture: *Exodus 20:16***

None of God's Ten Commandments are foolish or frivolous. All ten of these moral laws are given to protect something precious: worship of the one true God, His name, His holy day, the sanctity of life, marriage and the family, and personal property. The 9<sup>th</sup> commandment protects the truth. The narrow purpose of this command is the integrity of a witness in a court of law, but the scope of this command is much broader, as it says in ***Leviticus 19:11*** *You shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.* The 9<sup>th</sup> commandment deals with the importance of truth.

**1. We must love and appreciate truth**

A. God is a God of truth

***Deuteronomy 32:4*** *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 the 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 18:37-38*** <sup>37</sup> *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.* <sup>38</sup> *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 the Spirit of truth

***John 14:16-17*** <sup>16</sup> *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;* <sup>17</sup> *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

D. The Bible is the source of truth

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

***2 Timothy 2:15*** *Study to shew 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. God desires worship based on truth

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

G. Truth is an important part of the Christian's armor

***Ephesians 6:14*** *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.*

H. The church is built upon 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 value truth above all things

*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. Christians should always live by 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. We should hate and reject lies

A. Satan is the source of all lies

*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. Every lie has been spawned by Satan. When a person lies, he is acting like his father, the devil. From the beginning Satan has used lies.

*Genesis 3:1-4* <sup>1</sup> 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? <sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.

Never are you more like Christ than when you tell the truth, and never are you more like the devil than when you lie.

B. God hates lying

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

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

C. Lying is a sin that becomes a habit

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

D. Believers should pray to avoid 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. Telling lies and listening to them are 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 says, "I just don't know why people want to tell me everything." Maybe they know you're the kind of person that wants to hear it. Someone said, "A person who gossips ought to be hung by the tongue and whoever listens ought to be hung by the ears."

### **3. We should avoid all forms of falsehood**

#### **A. Outright lies 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.

#### **B. Half-truths**

A half-truth is equal to a whole lie. Don't be a person who says one thing, but really means something else. Some people take pride in being able to say one thing and mean another.

#### **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 and embellishment** – Fishermen are sometimes guilty of this, but they're not the only ones.

**E. Misrepresentation** – Politicians are known for doing this, but they're not the only ones.

**F. Gossip and rumors** – Rumors are quick to spread and cause so much 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. He was angry 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 a false report that caused Jesus to be found guilty and worthy of death. He had said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up, and they started a rumor that He was going to destroy the temple in Jerusalem, when in fact He was talking about His death and resurrection.

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

#### **G. Remaining silent when truth is at stake**

When you know that the truth is not being told or only half truth is being stated and you don't correct it, then you are guilty of allowing a lie to continue.

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

Why is there so much lying in the world? Lying has always been a problem. 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.*

The question is asked in a court of law: "Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" That is the question that God is asking you today.

All who lie and break the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment should realize what God says about the penalty: ***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.*

But there is good news and hope for all liars. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried and rose the third day according to the Scriptures. Repent and trust Christ as Lord and Savior, and He will forgive you and give you a brand new heart.