



Lecture # 13 Part 2

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty To Others (Part 9):

Commandment Nine Concerns Man's Word and Character— Never Lie, Exodus 20:16

The Ninth Commandment Against False Testimony

“Lo taaneh vereakha ed shaker” (Exodus 20:16) “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”

2. (Exodus 20:16) Commandments, The Ten— Lying— Testimony, False— Witness, False— Deception— Perjury— Tongue— Speech, False: What is forbidden by this commandment?

Exodus 20:16 (BHS)

¹⁶“לֹא-תִעֲנֶה בְרֵעֶךָ עֵד שָׁקֵר: ס”

“Lo taaneh vereakha **ed shaker**”

Exodus 20:16 (KJV)

¹⁶“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

Exodus 20:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“You shall not bear **false witness** against your neighbor.”

How is this commandment broken, violated: “You shall not lie—never bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16)?

- b. **There is rumor or gossip or tale-bearing:** spreading little or big tales, idle or active tales, whether imagined or real; spreading the evil news that one has imagined in his mind or has heard.

1 Timothy 5:13 (NASB)

¹³“At the same time they also learn *to be* idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also **gossips** and **busybodies**, **talking about things** not proper *to mention*.”

1 Peter 4:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a **troublesome meddler**.”

Leviticus 19:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“You shall not go about as a **slanderer** among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.”

Proverbs 11:13 (NASB)

¹³“He who goes about as a **talebearer reveals secrets**, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.”

Proverbs 16:28 (NASB)

²⁸“A perverse man spreads strife, And a **slanderer** separates intimate friends.”



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Proverbs 26:20 (NASB)

²⁰“For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down.”

- c. **There are suggestive hints or insinuations**: arousing a bad impression about someone; stirring the idea that something might possibly be true; planting in the mind the possibility of something improper or indecent.

Exodus 23:1 (NASB)

¹“You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.”

Jeremiah 9:4 (NASB)

⁴“Let everyone be on guard against his neighbor, And do not trust any brother; Because every brother deals craftily, And every neighbor goes about as a slanderer.”

- d. **There is deception**: thinking or wanting something to be true, accepting it as true and sharing it; tricking oneself and others into thinking something is true; deceiving oneself and others by accepting bad news as true when the truth is really not known; causing oneself and others to believe bad news.

Proverbs 12:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit.”

Proverbs 24:28 (NASB)

²⁸“Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, And do not deceive with your lips.”

- e. **There are false charges and criticism**: accusations made against a person to a third party; sharing the faults and failures of a person with someone other than the person himself; talking about the weaknesses and failures of a person with someone else; condemning, blaming, and censoring a person with others.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹“Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

1 Peter 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“And keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile [falsely accuse] your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

Psalms 31:13 (NASB)

¹³“For I have heard the slander of many, Terror is on every side; While they took counsel together against me, They schemed to take away my life.”



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f. **There is exaggeration and blown up flattery:** stretching the truth about a person; excessively praising someone; falsely representing someone; painting a false picture of a person.

Job 32:21 (NASB)

²¹“Let me now be partial to no one, Nor flatter *any* man.”

Proverbs 20:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip.”

Proverbs 26:28 (NASB)

²⁸“A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.”

Proverbs 28:23 (NASB)

²³“He who rebukes a man will afterward find *more* favor Than he who flatters with the tongue.”

Proverbs 29:5 (NASB)

⁵“A man who flatters his neighbor Is spreading a net for his steps.”

Psalm 12:3 (NASB)

³“May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, The tongue that speaks great things.”

1 Thessalonians 2:4-5 (NASB)

⁴“But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

⁵For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness.”

Proverbs 24:24 (NASB)

²⁴“He who says to the wicked, “You are righteous,” Peoples will curse him, nations will abhor him.”

g. There are innumerable ways in which we lie, **such as**.....

1. perjury
2. propaganda
3. boasting
4. telling half-truths
5. breaking vows
6. twisting the truth to protect oneself
7. shifting blame
8. seeking to discredit someone
9. making up an excuse
10. seeking to escape responsibility or punishment
11. sharing a convenient lie
12. raising an eyebrow, shrugging the shoulder, or snickering—doing anything that indicates something is untrue or that disavows knowledge of the truth



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3. A lie has at least three terrible effects upon people.

- a. Lying misrepresents the truth. It camouflages and hides the truth. The person lied to does not know the truth; therefore, he has to act or live upon a lie. If the lie is serious, it can be very damaging:
 - 1. A lie about a business deal can cost money and cause terrible loss.
 - 2. A lie about loving someone can stir emotions that lead to destruction.
 - 3. A lie about the salvation of the gospel can cost a person the hope of eternal life.

b. Lying deceives a person. It leads a person astray.

A person deceives...

- 1. to get what he wants
- 2. to seduce someone
- 3. to cover up or hide something
- 4. to cause harm or hurt

The point to see is that lying is a deception, and deception eventually causes misunderstanding, disappointment, bewilderment, helplessness, emotional upheaval, loss, and sometimes immorality and destruction.

c. Lying builds a wrong relationship, a relationship built upon sinking sand. Two people cannot possibly be friends or live together if the relationship is based upon lies.

Lying destroys.....

- 1. confidence
- 2. assurance
- 3. security
- 4. love
- 5. trust
- 6. hope

4. Four facts need to be noted about lying or bearing false witness.

- a. False witness is usually shared with loved ones and good friends, with people we feel can be trusted. Therefore, we always feel that our loved ones and friends can be trusted with the *bad news*. However, what is overlooked is that our loved ones and friends have good friends whom they feel can be trusted. And so the bad news is spread further and further a field; more damage and hurt is done to people and to the cause of Christ. God knows this is the way people are. This is the reason God forbids His people from sharing failure, whether true or untrue, except in dealing with the person involved with the issue.



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- b. Bearing tales about a person, whether true or untrue, always hurts the person. The person being talked about has a heart just like we do: a heart that is subject to being cut and hurt and suffering pain. Therefore, when tales are shared, we are eventually going to cause pain and hurt, sometimes a great deal of pain, to the person and his loved ones. (Imagine how God feels about this.)

Psalm 41:7 (NASB)

⁷ “All who hate me whisper together against me; Against me they devise my hurt, *saying*.”

Proverbs 18:8 (NASB)

⁸ “The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.”

Proverbs 25:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ “Like a club [hammer] and a sword and a sharp arrow Is a man who bears false witness against his neighbor.”

- c. The person who bears tales, giving false witness, shall be judged by God, no matter who he is.

Romans 1:29-30 (NASB)

²⁹ “Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are gossips,*
³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents.”

Romans 1:32 (NASB)

³² “And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

Psalm 101:5 (NASB)

⁵ “Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.”

Proverbs 19:9 (NASB)

⁹ “A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who tells lies will perish.”

- d. If a person truly loves, he will not bear false witness about anyone. If there is a problem or some questionable report, he will deal with the person himself, seeking to restore him to the faith. Note: love does not deal with a person in harshness, downgrading him, but in love and tenderness and in *strength*, being guided by the Holy Spirit of God.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NASB)

¹ “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

² Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”



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Isaiah 57:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners.”

Psalm 141:3 (NASB)

³“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.”

5. The source of lies and lying is Satan. He was the first ever to lie; therefore, he is called the father of lies. The person who lies follows in the footsteps of Satan and is called by Scripture a “**child of the devil.**”

John 8:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

6. The source of truth is God. Note Scripture declares time and again that God is the God of truth.

Numbers 23:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NASB)

⁴“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”

2 Samuel 7:28 (NASB)

²⁸“Now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.”

Psalm 146:5-6 (NASB)

⁵“How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, Whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶ Who made heaven and earth, The sea and all that is in them; Who keeps faith forever.”

Isaiah 65:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Because he who is blessed in the earth Will be blessed by the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Will swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My sight!”

Romans 3:4 (NASB)

⁴“May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man *be found* a liar, as it is written, “**THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED.**”



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Titus 1:2 (NASB)

²“In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.”

Hebrews 6:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷“In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,

¹⁸so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”

7. The very foundation or basis of society is truth. Families, businesses, organizations, clubs, neighbors, or communities in any society will disintegrate and collapse unless the members are truthful with one another. If we lie and deceive one another, the consequences are hurtful, damaging, and often devastating. Wrong decisions are made and wrong actions are taken.

Lies and deception—bearing false witness—are often what cause.....

1. divorce
2. job loss
3. unemployment
4. severed relationships
5. pain and hurt
6. abuse
7. accident
8. failure
9. bankruptcy
10. collapse
11. vengeance
12. retaliation
13. suffering
14. imprisonment
15. death

8. A critical question needs to be asked when dealing with lying or telling the truth. Should we ever tell the truth bluntly or harshly? In a court of law, the truth must always be spoken straight to the point: directly and straightforward. But when dealing in personal face-to-face relationships, we should not intentionally cause pain, hurt, embarrassment, or shame. We should never wound a person with a blunt, harsh statement, not with the truth. Truth is to be spoken in love and kindness not in harshness and ugliness.

Ephesians 4:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.”



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Ephesians 4:31-32 (NASB)

³¹“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

³²Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Thought 1. William Barclay has an excellent statement on this point:

“When we speak about telling the truth, one special point arises. Must we always tell the truth baldly and bluntly? For instance, if a person has played a game or sung a song or given some kind of performance, and not done very well, must we say that he was no good, or is there any harm in the polite compliment which will encourage him, even if it is not strictly true? Must we tell the truth, even when it is unpleasant and when it might hurt?”

“Someone has given us a valuable rule about this. There are three questions we should always ask about anything we say about anyone else, or to anyone else. **The first question is: *Is it true?*** And, of course, if it is not true, then it must not be said at all. **The second question is: *Is it necessary?*** If it is necessary, it will have to be said, but there are not many times when politeness and courtesy need to be disregarded. **The third question is: *Is it kind?*** It is hardly ever a duty to be unkind. There are ways and ways of telling the truth.”

“You can tell it in a way that is deliberately designed to wound and hurt; there are people who take a delight in seeing other people wince when something is said. On the other hand, it was said of **Florence Allshorn**, a great teacher, that, when she had some criticism to make, she always made it, as it were, with her arm round your shoulder. She spoke the truth; she said what was necessary; but she took care to say it kindly and in a way that would help and not hurt. And that is the best rule of all.”

3. Exodus 20:16 Commandments, The Ten— Lying— Decision: What is the decision required by this commandment?

Exodus 20:16 (BHS)

¹⁶“לֹא-תִעַנֶּה בְּרֵעֶךָ עֵד שָׁקֵר: ס”

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Obedience! Telling the truth is not an option. We must learn to conquer and overcome lying, to guard, prevent, and keep ourselves from lying.

Scripture tells us:



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1. We must obey God; keep His commandment: never bear false witness nor deceive a neighbor.

Exodus 20:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“You shall not bear **false witness** against your neighbor.”

Psalms 34:13 (NASB)

¹³“Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.”

Proverbs 24:28 (NASB)

²⁸“Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, And do not deceive with your lips.”

2. We must never spread a false report nor help a wicked person by lying for him.

Exodus 23:1 (NASB)

¹“You shall **not bear a false report**; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.”

3. We must never bear false witness, but rather we are to love one another.

Romans 13:8-10 (NASB)

⁸“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.

⁹For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.”

4. We must always speak the truth, but we are to speak it in love.

Ephesians 4:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.”

Zechariah 8:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates.”

5. We must teach every living person, especially our children and the youth of the world, the Word of God, the Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NASB)

⁶“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

⁷You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”



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2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

1 Peter 2:1-2 (NASB)

¹“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
²like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”

6. We must put away lying—put away all falsehood—and speak only the truth.

John 17:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

Ephesians 4:25 (NASB)

²⁵“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.”

7. We must put off the old man of lying and put on the new man of righteousness.

Colossians 3:9-10 (NASB)

⁹“Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil practices*,
¹⁰and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

8. We must stop all corrupt, unwholesome talk and slander (a type of lying); we must be kind and forgiving of one another.

Ephesians 4:29 (NASB)

²⁹“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need of the *moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NASB)

³¹“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
³²Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

1 Peter 2:1 (NASB)

¹“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.”

9. We must be diligent—stand guard—keep our tongues from deception and lying.

Psalms 34:13 (NASB)

¹³“Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.”

Proverbs 21:23 (NASB)

²³“He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles.”



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Jeremiah 9:4 (NASB)

⁴“Let everyone be on guard against his neighbor, And do not trust any brother; Because every brother deals craftily, And every neighbor goes about as a slanderer.”

10. We must pray, ask God to guard our tongues from lying.

Psalm 141:3 (NASB)

³“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.”

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