

## COMMANDMENT NUMBER NINE: DO NOT LIE

### Exodus 20:16

**Introduction:** God made all the creatures of the world, including man, whom He made in His own image. He gave man one gift which no other creature had/has, a gift which distinguishes him from the others. He gave man the power of speech. Speech is sometimes used to gladden the heart. When the lover says to his/her beloved, "I love you" that gladdens the heart. When the jury foreman says "Not guilty," that gladdens the defendant's heart. When the doctor says "I find nothing wrong," when the boss says "I'm giving you a raise," when the mother in law says "I'm going home," one's heart is gladdened.

But speech is sometimes used to sadden the heart. When the doctor says "I'm sorry, but....," when the boss says "you're fired," when you get a phone call from the police telling you, "your son/daughter has been in an accident," all these and many other situations, words can sadden the heart.

The worst use of speech is to use it in telling a lie. God is the God of truth, the author of truth. We are made in His image, so our lives are to reflect the truth of God. A lie in any form is strictly ungodly. Truth is the foundation of the Church, the home, and the world social order. Lying is one of the most common sins of any age, especially ours. Christians as well as others are guilty.

People lie when they sin and sin when they lie. Some people look with horror upon the outward sins of the flesh, yet they are not careful about their speech. ***"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."*** But, who is our neighbor? Jesus, in His story of the good Samaritan tells us that everybody is our neighbor.

### I. THE BIBLE'S MESSAGE ABOUT LYING

1. The Bible (John 8:44) says that Satan is a liar and the father of lies. John 14:6 tells us that Jesus is the truth.
  - Through the ages it is God versus Satan. The truth versus a lie. We are on one side or the other when we speak.
  - ***"Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh."*** (Mat. 12:34)
2. All the sin and trouble in the world began with lying. Remember Adam and Eve in the Garden? God told them that death would come upon them if they ate of the fruit of a certain tree. The devil told them to not believe God, so they believed a lie and ate.
3. What was it that put Jesus on the Cross? Lies. He lived a perfect life but men were hired to lie about Jesus therefore He was condemned to be crucified.

### II. VIOLATIONS OF THIS COMMANDMENT

1. It is violated in the courts of justice. Justice is based on truth. If a person lies on the witness stand, another may be robbed of his property, time or even his life. A lie can turn into theft and even murder.

2. It is violated by direct lies. The dictionary says that it is any species of designed deception. If one tries to make an impression contrary to the plain truth, it is lying. When one deliberately tries to deceive another in any way, that is lying.
  - Some call lies, "little white lies." Those are alright to tell. A "little bit of lying" is necessary for the job." Excuses are given to make telling a lie acceptable.
3. It is violated by gossip and slander. A scorpion carries it's poison in it's tail and a snake carries it's poison in it's fangs. The slanderer and gossiper carry their poison in their tongue. These people would never kill with a pistol but they do not hesitate to destroy people with their lying tongues.
  - Any common laborer can tear down an old building with wrecking tools, and it takes a skilled person to build a building. Anyone can tear down a person's character but it takes a real Christian to build it.
  - No doctor or medicine can heal or cure the wound caused by a lying tongue.
4. It is violated by evil insinuations. One does not actually accuse someone of evil doings, but just hints, suggests or insinuates that it might be so.
5. It is violated by insincere flattery. This is not an honest compliment and all of us like to be complimented. ***"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."* (Ps. 55:21)**
6. It is violated sometimes when we remain silent. There is such a thing as talking too much and there is such a thing as failing to speak up when we should. If someone you know is accused of some evil and you know he/she is innocent and you remain silent, you have borne false witness against him/her.
7. It is violated by hypocrisy. One may not lie with the lips but the way some live is a lie. One's life gives a lie to his/her profession of faith. One's actions during the week makes a lie to the faith one professes on Sunday.
8. It is violated by lying to God. One day you came down an isle of the church and before others you professed to have given yourself to Christ. You promised to be faithful to the church and to live for the Lord, but you haven't do so. When you make a promise and do not keep it whether to a person or to the Lord you have lied. Think about it for a minute. Have you ever made a promise to the Lord and failed to keep it?

## CONCLUSION:

1. What is the remedy for this sin of lying? It is not by our own strength. It is only by the Lord's help and Him alone. He can cleanse the heart and set one free from that sinful habit.
2. The devil leads us to believe that there is plenty of time to get things right with God. Remember, God tells us that the devil is the father of liars. Now is the time to get your life straightened out with God. Go to Him, ask Him to help you stop this sin.