

***The Law of God***  
***The Ninth Commandment***  
***Ex 20:1-16***

- 1 And God spake all these words, saying,
- 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
- 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
- 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 13 Thou shalt not kill.
- 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 15 Thou shalt not steal.
- 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. KJV

***Introduction:***

Today we come to look at and study the ninth commandment of the Law of God as given to Moses at Sinai. We know that conviction of a crime in Israel required the sworn testimony of at least two, and preferably three, eye witnesses to the event. As a result of that, many people have sought to reduce this command to only cover sworn testimony in legal events, but the sense of the words is much broader than that.

Ex 20:13-17

Instead of sheqer (OT:8267) `eed (OT:5707), a witness of a lie, who consciously gives utterance to falsehood, we find shaaw<sup>at</sup> (OT:7723) `eed (OT:5707) in Deuteronomy, one who says what is vain, worthless, unfounded (shaaw<sup>at</sup> (OT:7723) sheema` (OT:8088), Ex 23:1; on shw' see v. 7). From this ***it is evident, that not only is lying prohibited, but false and unfounded evidence in general; and not only evidence before a judge, but false***

*evidence of every kind, by which (according to the context) the life, married relation, or property of a neighbour might be endangered* (cf. Ex 23:1; Num 35:30; Deut 17:6; 19:15; 22:13 ff.) (from Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament: New Updated Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1996 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

Ex 20:12-17

V. The ninth commandment concerns our own and our neighbor's good name: Thou shalt not bear false witness, v. 16. This forbids,

1. Speaking falsely in any matter, lying, equivocating, and any way devising and designing to deceive our neighbour.
2. Speaking unjustly against our neighbour, to the prejudice of his reputation; and (which involves the guilty of both),
3. Bearing false witness against him, laying to his charge things that he knows not, either judicially, upon oath (by which the third commandment, and the sixth of eighth, as well as this, are broken), or extrajudicially, in common converse, slandering, backbiting, tale-bearing, aggravating what is done amiss and making it worse than it is, and any way endeavouring to raise our own reputation upon the ruin of our neighbour's.

(from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

The linguistic evidence is so clear that at least one translation reduces this command to “you must not lie.” (TLB) However, it seems that there is more to this command than simply the prohibition of lying because we find several instances in scripture when lies were told to defend innocent souls or to defeat an enemy which were commended.

You will recall that when Rahab, the woman of Jericho who hid the spies sent into the city by Joshua, was confronted by soldiers who were looking for the men, she told a falsehood and was commended and rewarded for her efforts. Her's was the only family, apparently, saved from the slaughter when Israel attacked the city.

You may remember that in Judges chapter 4 Jabin, a Canaanite king invaded and oppressed the nation of Israel by his great general Sisera. God raised up Deborah and Barak to lead Israel in war against them and when he was defeated Sisera was deceitfully offered a place of safety by a woman named Jael who drove a tent spike through his head while he slept. She, too, was honored for her deception.

David, when he escaped the hand of Saul went to the Philistine city of Gath and pretended to be insane so that he would not be killed and was spared through his deception.

The ninth command should be read, we believe, to prohibit deception for the purpose of doing harm or injury, or any other evil purpose. Lying to falsely accuse someone of a crime, to cheat another out of money or property, to create confusion or enmity, to injure someone's reputation, to communicate false doctrine, and all such things is included in this prohibition.

**I. David and Solomon both made it quite clear that lying and deception were among the most insidious, dangerous and despised of behaviors.**

David:

Ps 31:18

18 Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous. KJV

Ps 119:29

29 Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously. KJV

Ps 119:69

69 The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart. KJV

Ps 119:163

163 I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love. KJV

Solomon:

Prov 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. KJV

Prov 12:22

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

Prov 13:5

5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

**II. The New Testament is clear that the practice of lying arises from a profoundly wicked heart.**

Matt 15:19-20

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

20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man. KJV

1 Tim 4:1-2

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; KJV

Rev 22:14-15

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. KJV

### **III. But this goes far deeper than the idea of keeping a rule never to tell a lie.**

What kind of a person is truly committed to never lying? I am fortunate to have been raised by such a person, so I know a little about the topic.

It is a person with a deep sense of integrity, a profound honesty that goes to the very depth of the soul, a passion and love for truth and truth-telling.

This is a quality that arises up from deep within a person and is a reflection of who that person is as much as what that person believes.

This is a person who will not lie about little things any more than big things. It is a person who will not lie even though it could never be proven that he did. He will neither stretch nor bend the truth and, again, it is not because he is devoted to keeping some rule, it is because of who he is.

One of the things that God does when He brings a soul to Himself is to grant a deep and profound abiding love for truth.

John was one of those people, having been made so by being brought to faith in Jesus Christ. He used the word 'truth' over 25 times in his gospel and 19 times in his three little epistles.

Listen to some of the things that he recorded Jesus as having said.

John 8:32

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. KJV

John 14:6

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

John 16:13

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. KJV

The Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of Truth." He will never sanction lies, fraud, false doctrine, or anything less than the absolute truth. He who is guided by the Spirit of God is a person committed to believing and proclaiming truth.

John 17:17-19

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

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.  
KJV

The very essence of Holiness is truth, which is the Word of God.

John 18:37

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. KJV

The 'cause' for which Jesus came into the world was to 'bear witness unto the truth.' One cannot love Jesus Christ and not love truth, so he also cannot be a liar.

Now, listen to what John himself said about truth under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 1:6

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: KJV

1 John 2:4

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. KJV

1 John 2:21

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. KJV

3 John 3-4

3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. KJV

The very essence of being a Christian is loving truth, and those who love truth hate lies. They will not tell them, receive them, sanction them or tolerate them.

Listen, we are living in a world where the watch-word has become tolerance but the whole concept of it is a lie. It is not tolerance that is being promoted under the name 'tolerance' but a totalitarian enforcement of the acceptance of an ungodly and immoral agenda. You are not 'tolerant' if you accept the modern view of 'tolerance.' You are rather the dupe of a lying and immoral, ungodly agenda.

Just look at the uproar around the country because our good legislature and governor have passed a bill which says that a minister of the gospel cannot be prosecuted for refusing to perform a homosexual wedding. Or a Christian musician cannot be forced to perform at one, or a Christian wedding planner cannot be forced to supervise one. I profoundly respect and support this effort by our state government.

On the other hand, I believe that it will be struck down and the culture of 'tolerance' will be enforced at gunpoint if necessary. But the issue is truth and love for truth. This is not tolerance, it is intolerance. It is a lie and everyone who love truth hates lies and resists them.

#### **IV. Finally, I urge you to be bold for truth and stand in opposition to lies.**

Some of you have children who are pushing your limits on the toleration of wicked lifestyles. Love them enough to tell them the truth. Tell it lovingly and patiently but tell it. Tell it gently and with kindness but tell it. Then, stand on it. Don't back up. Don't be intimidated. At some point we all must decide whether we love Jesus Christ and the truth more or less than we love our families.

Luke 14:26-27

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. KJV

Tell the truth to your friends and your co-workers. Don't cower down before lies and intimidation. Listen, intimidation is the instrument of the one who cannot win the argument. There is no way that the current culture is even logical. It is self-destructive and suicidal. No one who has a heart loads the gun for a person intent on taking his life. Going along to get along is nothing less than sanctioning the mass suicide of our culture.

The only thing that can save them is truth and the Word of God, the Church of God, and the people of God are the only contact this lost world has with real and genuine truth. They cannot be set free of their delusions except by being confronted with the truth.

Bear witness to Truth. Do not lie.