



Message Discussion Guide Week of October 29, 2023

Message: The Ten Commandments, Part 9: To Tell the Truth

Key Scriptures: [Exodus 20:16](#), [Ephesians 4:20-25](#)

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

Have you ever been caught in a lie? It's horrible to live trying to cover up a lie. You must tell more lies to cover up the lies.

Jesus saw that lies stand at the root of all sin. He called the devil the "father of lies" and noted that the first sin of Adam and Eve was based on a lie. He listed liars among a group of those who will not enter the Kingdom of God.

God is truth. God is incapable of telling a lie, and so God designed the world such that truth-telling is foundational for healthy living. Society crumbles when we fail to tell the truth.

Typically, we think of the ninth commandment as instructions for giving testimony in a court. It is that, but it covers so much more. The ninth commandment prohibits all forms of falsehood. We violate the ninth commandment when:

1. We spin the truth – Sharing our interpretation of selected facts in a way that benefits us.
2. We gossip – Gossip is spreading reports or rumors about someone that cannot be corroborated. It is also sharing personal revelations about someone that are not yours to share.
3. We commit slander – Knowingly spreading untruths about someone to hurt their character and reputation.
4. Make snap judgements – Labeling or judging someone without taking time to understand the facts and the bigger picture.
5. Exaggerating the truth – Telling fish tales to make us look better than we are.

Lying is a violation of love for our neighbor. That's why when the writer to Ephesians calls us to put on the clothes of Christ, he instructs us to "put off falsehood" (Eph 4:25)

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Have you ever been caught in a lie? What motivated you to lie? How did you try to cover up the lie? How did it turn out?
- 2.) Pastor Tom suggested that lying has become far too common place in our society. Do you agree? Where do you see lying happening in our world today?
- 3.) Read the ninth commandment in [Exodus 20:16](#)
 - a. Why does the commandment use the language of “false testimony?” What does that mean?
 - b. Why is the focus of the commandment on testimony that is “against your neighbor.”
 - c. What kinds of behavior does the commandment prohibit?
- 4.) Read [Ephesians 4:20-25](#). How does this passage interpret the ninth commandment for believers in Jesus? How does telling the truth relate to putting on the “new self?”
- 5.) Look at the list of five ways we violate the ninth commandment. Which of the five most resonates with you? Which challenge you? Are there other forms of lying that you would add?
- 6.) What is your primary takeaway from this message? What will you do this week to try to become more obedient to the ninth commandment?

Abundant Life Tip: Jesus said that the truth will set us free. Being honest about who we are and what we have done is essential to living with freedom and peace.