Introduction

We come to the Ninth Commandment, which speaks to, or deals with, the honesty and integrity of an individual. Thieves are most generally liars. Remember one breach in integrity has a way of bleeding into other parts of one’s life.

If you will remember our illustration last week, our steroid taking Olympic athlete had no problem lying about it for years to the point that she accused others of lying.

One sin leads to another.

Some Notable Quotes

“False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.” - Plato

“A lie told often enough becomes the truth.” - Lenin

“A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.” - Mark Twain

“You never have to remember what you said if you always tell the truth.”

“A liar should have a good memory.” - Quintilian

“Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.” - Sir Walter Scott

“People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war or before an election.” - Otto von Bismarck

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Biggest Lies Ever Told

* The check is in the mail - I gave at the office.
* Thanks for calling, I was just about to call you.
* You can pet my dog, he’s never bitten anyone.
* Having a great time, wish you were here!
* You can tell me, I won’t tell anyone.
* “I did not inhale.” (Bill Clinton)
* You can be anything you want to be.
* Husband to wife - If you are happy, then I’m happy too.
* I am here from the government, and I am here to help you.
* I’m late because the alarm didn’t go off.
* It was delicious, but I can’t eat anymore, I’m full.
* I promise that I will pay you back next week.
* It’s not the money, its the principal of the thing.
* “Read my lips, no new taxes.” (George H. Bush)
* Let me check my calendar, I’ll get back to you tomorrow.
* It is a good thing you came in today, this is our last one!
* “I am devoting the rest of my life to find my wife, Nicole’s, killer.” (O.J. Simpson)
* It worked fine the last time I used it.
* Sorry dear, not tonight, I have a headache.
* This car is like brand new, it was owned by a retired school teacher.
* This is going to hurt me more than it is going to hurt you.
* I can go at least another 25 miles when my gas gauge says empty.
* There is no such thing as a stupid question.
* We will keep your name on file.
* “I did not have sex with that woman.” (Bill Clinton)
* We treat every custoomer as though he was the most important.
* I got home late last night because I ran out of gas.
* “I would gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today.” (Wimpy)

**Definition**

Witness - “Testimony, attestation to fact or event; that which furnishes evidence or proof. A person who knows or sees anything. One who gives testimony as the witness in a court proceeding.

The word is akin to the word “WIT” - to know.

A witness is one who brings forth evidence, proof or testimony of the truth as in Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

The Ninth Commandment demands that one does not “bear false witness,” the opposite of the truth, “against thy neighbor.” Our relationships with other people are at the forefront of the mind of God in the declaring of this commandment.

**Let’s try to understand the “why” behind this commandment.**

* There is such a thing as ABSOLUTE TRUTH.

* God is truth - in fact, He cannot lie. He is the embodiment of truth.

  - Jesus - 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.”

  - The Word - John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
Psalm 31:5 Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

Psalm 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

Psalm 86:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

Psalm 119:30 I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The testimony of John

* God is, by definition, TRUTH.

* God’s desire is that His creation, particularly mankind, act in concert with God’s character. God has designed man to reflect the character, integrity and nature of God. He desires us to be witnesses of the truth.

* God created man with the incredible ability to communicate verbally. God’s desire is that man use that ability to communicate the truth. (Acts 1:8; John 17:17; John 14:6).

* The positive implication of the commandment is simply that God wants us to be truth-tellers, more specifically, witnesses of His grace, power and majesty. He wants us to always tell the truth to and about Him, and in this commandment, especially to and about our “neighbor.”

Failing to Meet the Demands of the Commandment

There are many, many ways in which we can violate this commandment with respect to our neighbor:

* Questioning the motives or actions of another
* Slander
* Tale bearing, gossip
* Flattery
* Silence
* Exaggeration
* False oaths
* Lying for another
* Intentional misrepresentation of the facts, “spin”

Calumny - “slander, false accusation of a crime or offense, knowingly or maliciously made or reported, to the injury of another. False representation of facts reproachful to another.
There are over 200 references in the Bible to “lying.”

Why do people lie?
* protect - myself
* destroy
* pride - look at me!
* cover for another
* denial

We know that:

* Satan is the father of the lie.

  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.

* Satan is the first liar - Genesis 3

* Lying can get you killed - Acts 5 (Ananias and Sapphira)

* They lied about Jesus

  Mark 14:57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, 58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

* Liars are classified with “murderers, and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters ” and will “have their part in the lake of fire” (Revelation 21:8).

Proverbs has much to say about the subject:

Proverbs 6:16 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.

Proverbs 12:17 He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

Proverbs 14:5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Proverbs 19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape....9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish....28 An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.
Proverbs 21:28 *A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.*

Proverbs 24:28 *Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.*

Proverbs 25:18 *A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.*

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

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

* The Word is truth

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

* Everything we need

* 2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

* We are likened to farmers

* Matthew 13:1-23 - The Sower and the Seed

* Someone must “go”

* Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
  15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
  16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?
  17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

* We are witnesses

* Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

* Into all the world

* Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

* Be ready to given an answer

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

* Study to answer

Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

* The Word will save

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

* Shine as lights holding forth the word of life

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

* Three reactions

Acts 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter