

"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

3. Speak the truth in love

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." (Ephesians 4:15)

"But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:36-37)

4. Cling to Jesus, who is the truth

"The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.' " Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent." (Matthew 26:59-63)

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." (1 Peter 2:22)

The 9th Commandment Exodus 20:16 Sunday, 21st November '21

Introduction

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour."

1. God doesn't lie

"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. (Numbers 23:19)

"Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness – in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time" (Titus 1:1-2)

2. Do not lie

- In court

"If a man or woman living among you in one of the towns the LORD gives you is found doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God in violation of his covenant, and contrary to my command has worshiped other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or the moon or the stars in the sky, and this has been brought to your attention, then you must investigate it thoroughly. If it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, take the man or woman who has done this evil deed to your city gate and stone that person to death. On the testimony of two or three witnesses a person is to be put to death, but no one is to

be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. The hands of the witnesses must be the first in putting that person to death, and then the hands of all the people. You must purge the evil from among you.” (Deuteronomy 17:2-7)

“The commandment is not simply about telling the truth in general, but about telling the truth in the place where it counts most, because that is where lying can cost most – the court of law.” (Christopher Wright, quoted in John Dickson, A Doubter’s Guide to the Ten Commandments, p.144)

“If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse someone of a crime, the two people involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against a fellow Israelite, then do to the false witness as that witness intended to do to the other party. You must purge the evil from among you.” (Deuteronomy 19:16-19)

“Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the innocent.” (Exodus 23:6-8)

- Or anywhere else

“But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” (Matthew 15:18-19)

“That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one’s words, not gossip or slander, not join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing. Rather, in court and everywhere else, I should avoid lying and

deceit of every kind; these are the very devices the devil uses, and they would call down on me God’s intense wrath. I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it. And I should do what I can to guard and advance my neighbour’s good name.” (The Heidelberg Catechism, quoted in Kevin DeYoung, The 10 Commandments, p.146)

- **Twisting words**

- **Gossip**

“The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.” (Proverbs 18:8)

“A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.” (Proverbs 16:28)

- **Slander**

“In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines.” (Proverbs 18:17)

- **Flattery**

“A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.” (Proverbs 26:28)

- **Exaggeration**

“There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.” (Proverbs 6:16-19)