

Commandment #9 TRUTH 2006 – TRUTH TELLING

Exodus 20: Ephesians 4:25-32

Today were looking at the 9th commandment:

Slide 2- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. Ex 20:16

The most famous liar in America today.

Slide 3 --A car salesman. Joe Isuzu

Joe was an ad man who looked straight into the camera and said:

Slide 4-- Isuzu only cost \$9.00

They get 84 miles to gallon

Slide 4a--And if you buy one you will get a free house.

Then white block letter came on the screen saying.

Slide 5- He's lying.

The ad continues: The Isuzu goes 300 miles per hour

Seats the same number of people as the Astrodome and
is roomy enough to carry the state of Texas.

And once again the words

He's lying appear on the screen.

Ad executives put this add together for young people today who are cynical

They have been lied to before

They are amused by the simply truth of the lying commercial.

What is amazing was that after this ad campaign

Isuzu sales are up 21 % .

We all knew that sex can sell cars,

But apparently now lies do too.

We have all been lied too—and it hurts.

Some of the most common lies?

The check is in the mail.

Hey, I was just kidding!

I didn't want to hurt your feelings.

Officer, I only had one beer.

I did not say that.

53% of all High school Teenagers say they would lie to protect someone
who vandalized the school.

33% of working Americans have lied on their résumé,
Has something changed in the core of our society?

Jesus said:

Let your “yes” be “Yes,” and your “No, No”; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. Matthew 5:37

Paul repeated it this way:

Ephesians 4: 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are members of one body.

What is important about this commandment?

YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY!

I. TRUTH IS THE ESSENTIAL CORE OF GOD’S CHARACTER.

Truth is an absolute part of who God is.

It is his nature.

It is his being.

Psalms 31:5 Into your hands I commit my sprit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.

Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life... John 14:6a

God cannot lie.

Apostle Paul affirms that in Titus 1:2 we have “a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time....Titus 1:2

Think about it this way:

Every once in a while our grand piano in the sanctuary

has a string or two that goes out of pitch.

Every time I hear it I just cringe.

Its almost unbearable to the pianist who plays it.

In fact the more skill, or the more perfect pitch a person has,

The more it irritates to the point that

They don’t want to play it anymore.

When a child plays a piano they don’t care if its off pitch or

Has keys or stings missing.

But let a concert pianist come up to play.

And if it’s out of tune.

They walk away and refuse to play until its tuned.

God walks away from anything but the truth.

If there were no God there would be no truth.

God and truth are inseparable.

Exaggeration

Misrepresentation

Falsification

Spin

Stretch.

Whatever you want to call it, is lying.

Colossians 3 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Colossians 3:9-10

Our new nature is renewed in the image of its creator.

That image is one of truthfulness.

What is the most important quality you look for in a relationship?

9 /10 times its honesty.

How many of you have been hurt because someone lied about you, or to you? If we're truthful we have all been lied about or to.

God hate lies.

A little boy comes to his mother with a message from the neighbor. He said The new neighbor wants to cut their grass, and they sent me over to ask if they could borrow our lawn mower. Mom said: "What, its Sunday they can't mow grass on the Sabbath. No way, tell them we don't have a mower.

James 1: 17 says: Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created. James 1:16-18

Truth comes from God.

There is **"No shadow of error or shifting shadow** in the kingdom of God. **Nothing but the full truth.**

Revelations 14:5 Says that the 144,000 were blameless because

No Lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. Revelations 14:5

Can you imagine what happens in the heart of God when lies emanate from the mouth of his children.

**I. TRUTH IS THE ESSENTIAL CORE OF GOD'S CHARACTER.
II. TRUTH IS THE ESSENTIAL GLUE OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

The mess in our world can all be traced back to the telling of a lie.
In Genesis 3:4 Satan said: You will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. Genesis 3:4

Satan lied, he distorted the truth so we would turn from
Following the living God to following our own desires for power.
That's the lie of false religions today.
You can become like God.
You can start a whole new religion.
Like the Jehovah Witness, Mormons,
Like Islam,
Follow Allah the Arabian Moon God,

Lies have led us to all kind of deviate religions, and churches
That defend immorality and alternative lifestyles.
Romans 1 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worship and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Romans 1:24-25

Mix a little truth with a little error
And you can get any lifestyle accepted.
But it will always lead you off the path.
And open a floodgate of evil
Just as the first lie brought the consequence of sin into the world.
Most of our pain and suffering today can be traced by to someone's lies.
Psalms 52:2-3 Your tongue plots destruction; it is like a sharpened razor, you who practice deceit. You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth. You love every harmful word, O you deceitful tongue. Psalms 52:2-4

Today it takes a team of lawyers & stacks of contracts to get the truth.
**Did you hear bout the man who died and got to the gates of heaven.
The angel said: "We've been waiting a long time for you."**

The man said: "What do you mean? I'm only 45."
 You're not 45, the angel said: "you're 82," .
 No I'm 45. The angel said: "Hold on let me check.
 When he returned he said: "Sorry, but our records show that by the number
 of hours you billed your clients, you have to be 82.

In our relationship:

1. We lie to Impress people

To make ourselves look better than we are
 or do we lie to make a profit.
 50% of the people who call in sick for work,
 have a miraculous healings and go shopping or hunting.
 Most teenager would rather lie to their parents
 than be made to look a fool before their peers.

We can live a lie at church. There was an old Scotsman who dropped a gold
 piece in the collection bag at a church for all to see. But After the service he
 went to the usher to get it back because he only wanted to put in a shilling.
 However the usher pulled back the offering bag and said:
 "Nah, once in. always in!"
 The old man said. "Ah well. I'll get credit for it in glory."
 The usher replied, "Nah, you'll get credit for the shilling!"

In our relationship:

2. We lie to destroy people

We trump up stories; pass on rumors just to keep the damage coming.
 Joseph—handsome man, looked good in form and appearance.
 Pharaoh's wife –Baywatch girl of Babylon made advances toward him.
 Joseph said no and ran.
 She was so upset she threw out a destructive lie.
 Caused him to spend some serious years in prison.
 Destructive lies are the way we get back at our boss, our ex-spouse,
 And the government for the way they have treated us.
 Even our mom and dads.

In our relationships:

3. We lie to excuse our mistake or failings.

We get caught with our hand in the cookie jar-
 We say we were just surfing the web when we just caught a bad internet site.
 We lie when we say will be there and have no intention of being there.

We lie when we say: "I'll pray for you man" but never do it.
Lying to cover our mistakes.

Like the teenage daughter who got the car for the first time and came home very late from a party. The next morning her father went out to the driveway to get the newspaper and came back into the house frowning. At 11:30 in the morning the girl sleepily walked into the kitchen, and her father asked her, "Sweetheart, what time did you get in last night?" Nervously she replied: "Not too late, Dad." Dad said: "Well then I'll have to talk with the paperboy about putting my paper under the front tire of the car."

IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS:

4. We lie for protection:

When things get hot around us we lie.

The check is in the mail.

A man received a strongly worded "second notice" that his bill was due on his car repair. He quickly went to the dealer and paid his bill apologizing that he had overlooked the first notice. The collector said with a smile: "Oh, we don't send out first notices. We have found that the second notices are more effective."

Simon Peter did the fire escape lie.

First he said: Jesus I am behind you.

I won't let you down.

I won't ditch you.

Everyone else may leave but I'll stay by you.

Then Simon Peter began to follow Jesus from a distance.

Were all in trouble when we follow Jesus from a distance.

That night Peter sat around the fire,

It was just a little girl who walked up to him and said:

Hey—weren't you the guy with Jesus.

Simon Peter lied.

He felt the fire getting hot so he just lied.

God cries **Eph 4:25 stop lying and start telling each other the truth.**

Notice what God says he will do to liars.

Psalms 52:5 Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin; He will snatch you up and tear you from your tent; He will uproot you from the land of the living. Psalms 52:5

There is eternal consequence —everlasting ruin.

There is separation from security and home. – tear you from your tent

There is severance from your family, loved ones --Uproot you from the land of the living.

I. TRUTH IS THE CORE OF GOD’S CHARACTER

II. TRUTH IS THE GLUE TO OUR RELATIONSHIPS

III. TRUTH IS THE DOOR TO A NEW BEGINNING.

YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.

If our society is to have a new beginning there must be honesty.

In the **government**, our **courts** of law, our **schools**, our **churches**.

our **homes** and most important in our **hearts**.

We must acknowledge our sinfulness
and how far we are from the truth.

The first step in Alcoholic Anonymous is recognizing the truth

That you are powerless over your addiction.

We cannot go past that step unless you accept it as truth.

Same in the Journey to Christ.

If we do not recognize the truth that we are sinners.

That we cannot save ourselves,

Then indeed we are truly lost to ourselves and to God.

Apostle Paul quotes the Psalms: There is no one righteous, not even one? there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless. There is no one who does good, not even one. Romans 3: 10—12

Are you today one of the 93% of American who say they lie,

Then we are guilty of breaking the 9th commandment.

and we are in need of Gods grace?

So let step us as Christian and First of all:

1. **Critique your conversation**-- Ask God, did I embellish anything yesterday or falsify or put my spin on it? Than go and find that person and ask forgiveness and make it right. You do that 5 or 6 times and you won't do it again. It is hard but its freeing.
2. **Install lie detectors**.... Find someone to hold you accountable. Spouse, associate, or kids. Ask, "Did I put my spin on it???" Wives can be great on this. Men love to embellish that story. One man said: Ya, I was almost hit the other day and jump 6 feet out of the way of the vehicle. Wife says 2 feet. Well when that 18 wheeler came bearing down on me. Wife say: it was a little ford focus. Well it looked like a 16 wheeler. Wives are great lie detectors.
3. **Follow God's guide**
We all have a buzzer in our lives, and it is the holy Spirit.
He will convict you immediately--- wooo trouble...
Stop ...don't go further...confess. John 16:13 But when He the spirit of truth comes he will guide you into all truth.

When we do there is a wave of peace that spreads over us.

Let me close this sermon with four of
 God's absolute truths he want you to hear.

1. **You matter to God. He cares about you,
 and He sent his son to save you.**
2. **You are a sinner. We are all sinners. We fail the perfection test.
 Romans 3:23**
3. **You will be judged. And we will give an account of all our life.
 And we will either spend eternity in heaven or hell.**
4. **Your confession will bring forgiveness. Sinners who repent, turn
 from their sin and turn toward Christ find salvation and life.**
5. **Your decision will determine your destiny. What you decide today
 will determine where you spend eternity tomorrow.**

Let trust God and began to live a life of honesty and integrity.

Dear Lord Jesus, I understand that you love me. And I know that I am a sinner. Forgive me for past sins and lies, and help me to live an honest life. Help me to believe that you sent Jesus to the cross for my sins. Right now, let me embrace and invite Jesus into my heart as my savior. I pray this in Jesus name.