

How Then Shall We Live?

9th Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness".

"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfil?"

(Numbers 23:19)

"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body." (Ephesians 4:25)

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

(Ephesians 4:22-24)

"What is truth"

Truth is an accurate representation of the facts, conforming to God's Word which is truth.

(John 17:17)

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfil to the Lord the vows you have made.' But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Matthew 5:33-37)

"Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned." (James 5:12)

Why do we lie?

"When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

We are usually driven by the same motives as the enemy when we lie:

- o pride
- o hatred and
- o fear.

James 3:3-6

- o a bit of a bridle
- o the rudder of a ship
- o a fire.

How do we lie?

i. Perjury

ii. Slander

“There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” (Proverbs 6:16-19)

Proverbs 22:1 – A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 – A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

According to James 3:15-16, the practice of slander is demonic.

iii. Half truths

iv. Cover ups

v. Exaggeration.

vi. Flattery

vii. Silent lies

viii. Cheating

ix. Deceit

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.” (Proverbs 14:34)

FIVE STRATEGIES FOR BECOMING AN HONEST PERSON (Coles)

A. RECOGNIZE THE SOURCE OF TRUTH AND THE SOURCE OF FALSEHOOD.

God is the source of truth.

He is the only true God, whose word is truth (John 17:3).

He cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18).

He is the embodiment of the truth (John 14:6; Eph. 4:21).

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 14:17).

Satan is the source of falsehood and lies.

Satan is "a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

Satan deceived Eve with the lie (Gen. 3:4)

B. RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUTHFULNESS TO GOD.

Truthfulness is important to God because He is the God of truth who hates lying and falsehood.

"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are His delight."
(Proverbs 12:22)

Truthfulness is important to God because truth is the basis for all communication.

C. MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT TO LIE, BUT SPEAK THE TRUTH.

- *Make a prior commitment not to lie.*
- *Make a prior commitment to tell the truth, even if it costs you or makes you look bad.*

D. CONFESS YOUR SINS IMMEDIATELY, FIRST TO GOD AND THEN TO THE ONES YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST.

"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion." (Proverbs 28:13)

E. CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF LYING.

"A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will not escape".
(Proverbs 19:5)

- *How could my lying bring glory to God?*
- *How will my lying affect other believers?*
- *How will my lying affect my family?*
- *How will my lying affect my witness to unbelievers?*