

Sermon Reflections

Don't Lie to Me (Exodus 20:16)

Summary: Put away all destructive lies. Speak the truth that builds up, that edifies.

Ninth Command: Don't Lie. Speak Truth.

1. Speak the Truth for Justice's Sake (Exodus 20:16; 23:1-7)

- What are some circumstances where your sinful flesh tempts you to gossip or slander? How can you ensure you are well-equipped to fight these temptations? What are some ways you can help ensure the church body is not an environment where these are tolerated?
- Are you a reliable truth-teller in all spheres of your life (personal, professional, etc.)? Are you more prone to lie (or tell a half-truth) to someone in your professional sphere or a stranger than a fellow believer? Seek to ensure that you are a reliable witness in all facets of your life.
- What should you do if you find yourself on the receiving end of a lie? What if the speaker is an unbeliever? How should you navigate our sinful culture where we are inundated with lies?

2. Speak Truth for Your Neighbor's Sake (Leviticus 19:11-18)

- Which of the examples from the sermon (half-truths, exaggerations, word-twisting) do you struggle with the most? By God's grace, what are some ways you can fight these temptations to distort the truth? How could you encourage a brother or sister in their fights against these sins?
- Leviticus 19 illustrates several ways we should relate to our *neighbors* with respect to stealing, lying, slander, treating workers, etc. The passage ends with the well-known "you shall love your neighbor as yourself". Do you often think of lying as being a violation of this second "greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:34-40)? Meditate on ways you fail to love your neighbor with your words – and seek the Holy Spirit's strength in ways you can love your neighbor more fully and consistently.

3. Speak Truth for Edification's Sake (Ephesians 4:17-32)

- Some tend to "tell it like it is" at the expense of being gracious. What are some ways you can practice confronting and rebuking in gentleness and love?
- Others may tend to avoid telling the truth (or even speak *nothing*) in an attempt to be loving and kind. What are some circumstances where you should practice speaking the truth this week where you may be tempted to remain silent?
- How often do you find yourself building others up? What are some ways you can go out of your way to edify a brother or sister in Christ this week? Regularly use these opportunities as a means of strengthening and encouraging the body!