

God's Top 10 List!
"Number 9: The Importance of Truth"
Exodus 20:16 (page 53)

Sunday, June 21, 2009

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The m e a n i n g of the ninth commandment

- *The issue:* how I deal with other people's n a m e s and r e p u t a t i o n s.
- It is about r e s p e c t i n g my neighbor.

The o r i g i n of lying (Prov 12:22; 6:16-19)

- S a t a n is the original s o u r c e of all lying
(John 8:44; Gen 3:4; Job 1:9-11)
- Human n a t u r e that is c o r r u p t e d by sin (Jer 17:9; Matt 15:19)

The m e t h o d s of lying

I can lie by

- O u t r i g h t deceitfulness (Ex 23:1-2; Deut 19:18-19; Lev 19:16; Jas 4:11; Prov 18:8)
- E m b e l l i s h i n g the truth (Num 13:31-33; Prov 26:28)
- W i t h h o l d i n g the truth (Jas 4:17; John 8:19, 41)

Is it ever p e r m i s s i b l e to lie?

- The biblical e x c e p t i o n: when a l i f e is in d a n g e r
(Ex 1:15-21; Josh 2:4; 1 Sam 16:2; 20:28)
- This is the *exception*, not the *rule*...human l i f e has p r i o r i t y.

The s o l u t i o n for lying

I can *overcome* the t e m p t a t i o n to lie by:

- L o v i n g the truth (Psalm 119:47-8, 97, 113, 119,127, 163-67; John 8:32; 14:6, 23-24; 17:17)
 - It will cause me to t h i n k before I speak
- L e a r n i n g the truth
 - It will help me to m e a n what I say
- L i v i n g the truth (Eph 4:25, 29-32; Col 3:7-9; Heb 13:15-16; James 3:9-10)
 - It will produce i n t e g r i t y in my relationships

Sticks and stones....

In what ways have I injured others with false testimony about them?

What step (or steps) can I begin to take (see "solution") to become more resistive to the temptation of lying about others?