

DO NOT LIE

Scripture used: Exodus 20:16 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

As we continue our message series on God's Top Ten (The Ten Commandments), we are almost to the end of the list with His ninth commandment: do not lie. We are exposed to lies every single day (about 200 lies in some fashion or another). Sorting out how we should act and what God has called us to is a great opportunity to examine our relationships and everyday choices within our families, with our God, within our community, with our employers, and even within ourselves. Is our word trustworthy? How do we cultivate honesty with God, ourselves and others and learn to harness the power of truth tempered by God's grace?

KEY POINTS

- 1) **The Ten Commandments are not just another set of rules to be kept.**
 - The Ten Commandments form the core of a constitution for all peoples and are for our protection.
 - God knows we are not perfect and extends His grace and merciful forgiveness when we need it the most. His desire is that we be honest with Him and with ourselves.
 - Communities break down when lawlessness and deception rule and truth-telling is lost. The powerful get away with injustices, and disaster falls broadly on the shoulders of the innocent.
- 2) **Truth-telling plays a vital role in our lives and in the lives of our communities.**
 - We use lies to benefit ourselves. We lie to cover up our weaknesses and insecurities. We try to avoid shame, embarrassment and punishment.
 - Only truth-telling can bring restoration and healing. Without the truth, trusts are violated.
 - Truth-telling is essential in our families, businesses, neighbors and friendships.
 - Truth-telling is even more vital in close relationships. Trusts can be violated and lost. Can your words be trusted? Do you make promises to children which are not kept? What are they being taught then?
- 3) **Truth-telling is modeled by Jesus at the cross and is God's calling for us.**
 - Jesus modeled moral courage for us when he boldly stood up to evil and distortions in His community.
 - He is filled not only with truth but embodies grace. He is constantly dealing with flawed humans. He honestly teaches us truths about God forgiveness, and shows God's mercy and grace for us all. We are called to be like Christ to engage this world with a balance of truth and grace.
 - It is impossible to fulfill our God-given purpose without being courageous truth-tellers.
 - Grace without truth is no true grace. Truth without grace is no true truth.
 - Truth without being sensitive leads to a trail of damaged and destroyed relationships. Jesus told us He didn't come to condemn the world but to save the world.
- 4) **How do you strengthen your truth-telling choices?**
 - Have someone walk with you in your life who is honest and full of godly grace. Seek their wisdom and counsel. In some circles these people are known as "sponsors" or "accountability partners".
 - Pray and examine your life's less-than-honest choices and ask God for healing and full restoration.
 - Ask God for the moral courage and strength to take the next step forward in your truth-telling.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** What were some of first lies you told in your life? Why did you lie? What were the consequences? Why do you think those memories stay with you to this very day?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** Share a time when someone had the moral courage to be a truth-teller with grace and another time when someone told you the truth without grace. How did you respond in each situation?
- 3) **DO & PRAYER** This week seek out a possible accountability partner for the next 3 months to help you be a stronger truth-teller. (Be willing to serve as someone's accountability partner, too.) Pray and seek God's face about the truths in your own life's choices. Take one step forward with moral courage.