

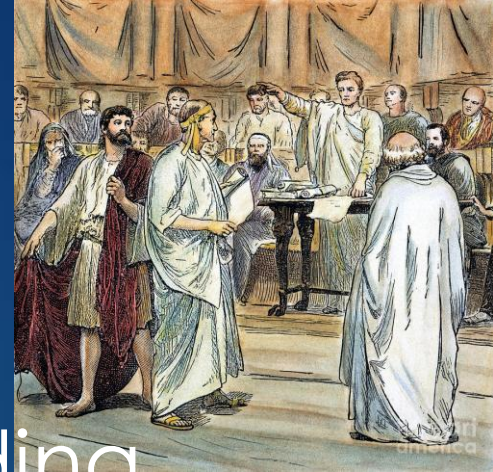


No False Witness 9th Commandment

EXODUS 20:16

The Original Intent

- ▶ This commandment is primarily referring to bearing witness in a **legal** or judicial proceeding. (Deut. 19:15-19) God demands a fair and just justice system for His people, i.e. **government**
- ▶ (1 Kings 21:1-16) Bearing false witness could be a very **serious** thing in those days (ill: Stephen, Acts 6:13). Still is serious in our days. (i.e. Twitter)
- ▶ Of course there is also a broader intent of this commandment as well (in both OT and NT)





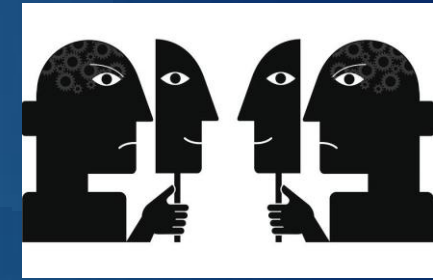
1. Deceit

- ▶ Lying is a form of **deceit** (Psalm 101:7; Pro. 6:16-19). There are many relationships damaged or destroyed everyday because of it.
- ▶ Note: Often we can be telling no lies and still be deceitful, so long as we are bearing “false witness”
- ▶ (ill: Exo. 8:28-29) Deceitful against one another is bad enough, **deceitful against God** is even more destructive, both to ourselves and others as well. (Prov. 14:8; 2 Tim. 3:13)

2. Hypocrisy



- ▶ Goes hand in hand with deceit, which intends for concealment or to lead people astray. Hypocrisy is to create a **false image**. (ill. Homework)
- ▶ (Matt. 2:8) **Herod** wanted to look honourable
- ▶ (John 12:5-6) **Judas** wanted to look caring
- ▶ (Acts. 5:1-5) **Ananias** wanted to look generous
- ▶ In each case it did not work out for them. Hypocrisy seldom works. Even if it works temporarily, the person was seeking the wrong outcome.



3. Slander

- ▶ (Lev. 19:16) Slander can be very **destructive** as well. (ill. pastor's sister)
- ▶ There are so many **unhelpful excuses** for gossiping...The question we need to ask is this: are we **passing judgment**? (James 4:11)
- ▶ Note: when we gossip, truth or no truth, it is just **foolish** (Prov. 10:18-19). Just stop sharing any shortcoming of anyone (I promise, it won't hurt by stop talking 😊)



The Father of Lies



- ▶ The world is full of **lies**--often things aren't as they seems
- ▶ The world is in the devil's dominance, and he is the father of lies (John 8:44). We are identifying with "the kingdom of darkness" (Col. 1:13-14) when we lie.
- ▶ (v.14) How can we be free from this lying world?
Jesus—He is the truth (John 14:6) and His **word** is truth (John 17:17). In Him there are no lies (Titus 1:2).
- ▶ As we trust in Jesus and study His word, we can **put on** the truth, and we can **put down** our lies (Col. 3:8-9)

What Can We Do?

- ▶ (James 1:19, 26) **Think** before we speak: are we being deceitful or hypocritical?
- ▶ Note: When we do need to share something negative about others, beware of **passing judgment**—a full disclosure statement may help too
- ▶ (Eph. 4:29-32) Let us **build up** one another with our words. Let us focus on how we may encourage and support one another (Rom. 14:19; 15:2).

