

Do Not Bear False Witness



Just like the Israelites, there are lowercase-g gods all around us, influencing our priorities, our morality, even our eternity. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He wasn't just handing down a list of do's and don'ts, He was providing a plan to battle the lowercase-g gods in our lives.

INTRODUCTION

In Exodus 20:16, the 9th commandment says "Do not bear false witness." We want to crush the lowercase god of pride and have integrity in our lives. We want others to see the truth of Jesus in both our words and actions.

STARTER QUESTION

1. As David shared, Augustine says lying can be humorous. Share an example of your favorite humorous lie - otherwise known as a joke!

Do you agree with Augustine that lying for a higher ethical purpose is not a sin? Share an example.

INTO THE WORD

2. John 8:32 says ". . . the truth will set you free." Later in that chapter, Jesus calls the devil "the father of lies." How can something like the truth set us free? What does it set us free from?
3. In 1 Samuel 15:13-15, Saul lied to avoid negative consequences. Discuss why his lie of omission was a sin.
4. One of the ways we disobey this command is by spreading rumors that create conflict. Examples of this can be seen in many places in Scripture: Ex. 23:1; Deut. 5:20; James 4:11; Prov. 6:19; Lev. 19:16. James 4:11 specifically says "...If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you." This can also be hypocrisy, as David mentioned. Discuss this principle in relation to the Commandment not to bear false witness.

APPLICATION

5. "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. Which of these 6 things are the easiest for you to comply with? Which are the most difficult? Discuss how the things mentioned in these verses relate to one another.
6. Why do you think our integrity is so important to God? How does telling the truth with our words and living out the truth in our actions impact our witness and relationships?

PRAYER

Lord, We want to praise you because you are the TRUTH. Forgive us for not including you in our day-to-day decisions. Please give us your wisdom to discern truth in our words and actions. Help our intentions not to get in the way of our integrity. We know that we cannot do follow the 9th commandment without your guidance. In your name pray, Amen