

## FALSEHOOD FORBIDDEN

TEXT: Ex. 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Two of the Ten Commandments deal with the tongue. The tongue can gladden or sadden.
- B. The other commandment has to do with God's name. Ex. 20:7.
- C. The gift of speech is unique to man.
- D. The power of reasoning and then acting on that reasoning is unique to man.
- E. Each commandment protects something.
  - 1. God.
  - 2. Parents.
  - 3. Life.
  - 4. Property.
- F. This commandment protects a man's reputation and character against slander or lies.
- G. Someone said that this command is the one most often broken.

### BODY:

#### I. NOTICE THESE SCRIPTURES THAT SPEAK AGAINST BEARING FALSE WITNESS.

A. Ps. 120:2 **"Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.**

B. Ps. 141:3 **"Set a watch O Lord, before my mouth keep the door of my lips."**

C. Prov. 6:16-19 **These six the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.**

D. Prov. 12:22. **Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.**

E. Prov. 19:5 **"A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape."**

F. Matt. 12:34. **"Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."**

G. Matt. 12:36-37.

H. Eph. 4:25. **Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.**

I. Col. 3:9. **Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,**

## II. WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THE BEARING OF FALSE WITNESS?

A. Consider the damage it does:

1. A lie caused death to come into the world.
  - a. Satan bore false witness to Eve.
  - b. Gen. 3:4. **You will not surely die.**
  - c. Rom. 5:12.
2. False witness discouraged Israel- Num. 13:30-33. **we were like grasshoppers**
3. The lying tongue of Peter brought him sorrow- Matt. 26:69-75.
4. Lies against Jesus.
  - a. That he had a demon- Jn. 8:48-49.
  - b. He was a glutton and winebibber- Matt. 11:19.
  - c. At His trial- Matt. 26:59-62.
  - d. After His resurrection- Matt. 28:12-15.
5. Damage to the one being lied about.
  - a. Prov. 22:1. **A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.**
  - b. Done in court.
6. The liar himself is damaged.
  - a. James 3:6- defiles his body.

b. He shows what is inside of him- Matt. 12:34.

c. Shows his spiritual condition- Jas. 1:26-27.

d. Headed for Hell.

(1). Rev. 21:8.

(2). Rev. 21:27.

(3). Rev. 22:15.

B. Don't listen to it- Mk. 4:24. **Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear.**

C. Ancient Views of Falsehood.

1. Egypt-cut off nose and ears.

2. Romans-pushed off a cliff.

3. Athens-fined the 1st time then after 3rd all rights taken away.

### III. HOW DO PEOPLE VIOLATE THIS COMMANDMENT?

A. Plain old boldface lie! Col. 3:9.

1. Many reasons.

2. Jealousy, inferiority complex, etc.

B. False Advertisement and Flattery, Ps. 55:21 **"The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil yet they were drawn swords."**

C. Unjust Criticism and Insinuation.- Matt. 7:1-5.

D. Hypocrisy- Tit. 1:16.

E. Gossip- Lev. 19:16. **^You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.**

F. Keeping Silent- Ecc. 3:7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;

G. Many lie to God- Acts 5:1-4.

H. Half-truths, Little White Lies and Exaggeration.

1. Abraham told Abimelech that Sarah was his Sister.
2. The ten spies exaggerated their description of people in Canaan.

I. Excuses.

1. Gus Nichols said an excuse was a lie wrapped up in tissue paper.
2. Gen. 3:12-13. Adam and Eve

IV. HOW CAN WE AVOID BREAKING THIS COMMANDMENT?

A. Be aware of the source of lies- Jn. 8:44.

B. Imitate Good.

1. God.

- a. Heb. 6:18. **which it [is] impossible for God to lie,**
- b. Tit. 1:2. **in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised**

**before time began,**

2. Christ.

- a. 1 Cor. 11:1. **Imitate me, just as I also [imitate] Christ.**
- b. Jn. 14:6. **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

**No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

C. Love the truth- Prov. 23:23 **"Buy the truth and sell it not also wisdom and instruction and understanding."**

D. Love our neighbor as ourself- Matt. 22:39.

E. Speak truth in love- Eph. 4:15.

F. Consider the blessing of using the tongue properly- 1 Pet. 3:10.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must control the tongue.
- B. James 1:26-27.
- C. Lying will send you to Hell.
- D. Use your tongue to confess Christ.