



## No Falsehood

11<sup>th</sup> in the “10 Commandments” Series

Exodus 20:16 & Matthew 5:33-37

March 27, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

### Introduction

In this passage we learn about the ninth of the Ten Commandments.

### The Text:

#### Exodus 20:16

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

#### Matthew 5:33-37

<sup>33</sup> “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

1. The ninth commandment forbids any use of words that distorts reality or slanders people.
2. The ninth commandment demands that Christians pursue and practice truthfulness.

#### *Heidelberg Catechism 112:*

*Q: What is the aim of the ninth commandment?*

*A: That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one’s words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing. Rather, in court and everywhere else, I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind; these are the very devices the devil uses, and they would call down on me God’s intense wrath. I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it. And I should do what I can to guard and advance my neighbor’s good name.*

*Ephesians 4:15 – <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:29 – <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

3. The ninth commandment shepherds us to believe that Christ is the Truth, and that we have the indwelling Spirit of Truth through whom we are guided into truth (John 16:13).

### **Application:** What does obeying the ninth commandment look like?

- (1) God expects you to represent people as positively as possible.
- (2) God expects you to pursue truth in all situations.
- (3) God expects his church to display the loving nature of truth and its blessing in a community.

### Response

Lord, fill us with your Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, so that we may exalt the truth and flee from falsehood.

## Sunday Text Questions for Ten Commandments Series

### Exodus 20:16 & Matthew 5:33-37

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- 1) Starter Question: How important is “truth” for a healthy relationship, or even a healthy community?
- 2) Read Exodus 20:16 and Mathew 5:33-37 aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What is the difference between “you shall not lie,” which most people assume the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment address, and “you shall not bear false witness,” and what is the significance of that difference?
- 4) How does Jesus apply the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment to the Christian in Matthew 5:33-37?
- 5) Does Jesus’ statement in Matthew 5 mean one cannot take an oath, a stance a minority of Christians hold, or that cultural expressions of truth trickery should not be practiced by Christians? How should his statement be applied in our context?
- 6) What are the challenges Christians will face as they try to honor the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment in a culture that is dishonest and skilled in falsehoods?
- 7) Read Ephesians 4:15, 29. How is truthfulness an expression of love and grace?
- 8) How can Christians apply the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment in this cultural moment which is filled with disinformation and even conspiracy theories?
- 9) The 9<sup>th</sup> commandment demands that we not speak of people in a slanderous way, even our opponents, but that we represent people as positively as possible. How should this guide how a Christian speaks about a politician, for example, with whom they vehemently disagree?
- 10) How has this study of the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment exhorted you to think or live differently?

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment: John 8:31-47 (Mon); John 14:6 (Tues); John 16:13 (Wed); Proverbs 12:22 (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 (Fri).