

“The Sanctity of Truth”

Exodus 20:16

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. I have chosen the title of this message intentionally
 - 1. Truth is intrinsic to God’s nature and character
 - a) God, Jesus, Spirit, Word
 - 2. Lies are intrinsic to Satan’s nature and character
 - a) He is the father of lies
 - b) (John 8:44)
- B. We live in a world today that has abandoned God and objective truth
 - 1. Choosing rather to follow the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, which taught that no one could ever know objective truth and that all one could ever do was impose one’s personal, subjective, mental categories into reality
 - a) Therefore, according to Kant, truth is relative to the mind
 - b) Thus, we live in a world of lies and liars
 - c) Truth-telling has fallen on hard times
 - d) It all started in the Garden of Eden with Satan
 - 2. In Patterson and Kim’s book “The Day America Told the Truth,” they state, “two out of every three believe there is nothing wrong with telling a lie”
 - 3. We need this 9th commandment more today than ever
 - a) “You shalt not bear false witness against your neighbor”

II. Lying- The Prohibition (Exodus 20:16)

- A. The context of this commandment is that of perjuring oneself in a judicial trial
- B. It would also include any form of lying
 - 1. “To make a statement that one knows is false, with the intent to deceive, or anything that gives or is meant to give a false impression by words, actions or silence”
- C. The Scriptures are clear that God hates lying in any form
 - 1. (Proverbs 12:22)
 - 2. (Leviticus 19:11)
 - 3. (Proverbs 6:16-19)
 - 4. It is a sin of the tongue

III. Who Can We Lie To?

- A. We can lie to our neighbor
 - 1. (Ephesians 4:25)
 - 2. Paul is saying to “stop lying to your neighbor”
 - 3. How do we lie to our neighbor?
 - a) Destructive lying
 - 1) Lies born of malicious intent
 - 2) Slander and gossip

- 3) It is a false tale that damages a person's character and reputation
 - a. Illustration- Joseph, King Ahab, Naboth, Jesus
 - b. (Leviticus 19:16)
- 4) Ask yourself
 - a. Is it true?
 - b. Is it helpful?
 - c. Is it necessary?
 - d. Is it kind?
- b) Defensive lying
 - 1) Often born out of fear
 - a. To save face
 - b. Embarrassment
 - 2) Illustration- Peter denying the Lord
 - 3) Often, we lie to cover up another sin
 - a. Illustration- David
- c) Defective lies
 - 1) Subtle, white lies
 - a. Flattery
 - i. (1 Thessalonians 2:5)
 - ii. (Proverbs 20:19)
 - b. Exaggeration
 - i. False boasting
 - c. Carelessness
 - i. People who are chronically inaccurate
 - ii. Lazy lie
 - d. Insinuation
 - i. Illustration- Satan, "Did God really say that?"
 - e. Silence
 - i. Not correcting untrue statements
 - ii. Silence is not golden
 - f. Distortion
 - i. False teachers twisting the truth

B. We can lie to ourselves

1. Self-deception

- a) (James 1:26)
- b) (Romans 12:13)
 - 1) Don't believe Satan's lies
 - a. "I am not a sinner"
 - b. "God won't judge me"
 - c. "There is no Hell"
 - d. "Good people go to Heaven"

C. We can lie to God

- 1. (Acts 5)
- 2. Hypocrisy
 - a) You can't fool God
- 3. Lying is destructive to your character, relationships, and your soul
 - a) (Revelation 21:8)

IV. How Do We Win Over Lying?

- A. If you are a Christian
 - 1. Make sure you are truly “born again”
 - 2. Repent and ask God to forgive you
 - a) (1 John 1:9)
 - 3. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit
 - a) The Spirit of truth
 - 4. Pray, read the Bible, and fellowship
 - a) (Ephesians 4:25)
- B. If you are not a Christian
 - 1. Reject Satan’s lies
 - 2. Realize you are a sinner
 - 3. Repent and turn to Jesus
 - 4. Receive Jesus Christ