

Ten Commandments (Part 60)
(The 9th Commandment – Part 1)

Exodus 20:16: “*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*”

-Primary Setting of the 9th Commandment: the courtroom (Num. 35:30; Deut. 19:15)

-Who is our neighbor? Any and all people we have any dealings with (Lev. 19:18; Luke 10:30-37; Rom. 15:2; Eph. 4:25; James 4:12)

-Scope of the Commandment’s Application: Law of Contraries (prohibitions imply positive commands); Law of Categories (all sins of the same kind are forbidden, and all duties of the same kind are commanded)

1) What is lying?

-A lie is an intentionally false statement.

-Types of Lies:

- Malicious Lie *mendacium perniciosum* (injurious falsehood)

- Jocular Lie *mendacium iocosum* (humorous falsehood; Prov. 17:22)

- Necessary Lie *medacium officiosum* (necessary falsehood)

- Polite Lie *mendacium humilitatis* (courteous falsehood; 1 Cor. 13:5-7; 1 Pet. 4:8)

2) Why do people lie?

-To get something (Gen. 12; 27; 37; 2 Kings 5; Prov. 20:17; 21:6; Acts 5)

-Because they think they can get away with it (Ps. 5:6; 15:1-3; Prov. 12:19; 19:5; Rev. 21:8, 27; 22:15)

3) Why is it wrong to lie?

-God hates it (Prov. 6:17; 12:22); it’s ungodly (Prov. 13:5); it’s from the devil (Gen. 3:4; John 8:44)

WLC Q #144: “What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?” *Answer:* “The duties required in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man, and the good name of our neighbour, as well as our own; appearing and standing for the truth; and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice, and in all other things whatsoever; a charitable esteem of our neighbours; loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name; sorrowing for, and covering of their infirmities; freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces, defending their innocency; a ready receiving of a good report, and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them; discouraging tale-bearers, flatterers, and slanderers; love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requireth; keeping of lawful promises; studying and practising of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.”

WLC Q#145: “What are the sins forbidden in the ninth commandment?” *Answer:* “The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are, all prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbours, as well as our own, especially in public judicature; giving false evidence, suborning false witnesses, wittingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause, out-facing and overbearing the truth; passing unjust sentence, calling evil good, and good evil; rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous, and the righteous according to the work of the wicked; forgery, concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause, and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or complaint to others; speaking the truth unseasonably, or maliciously to a wrong end, or perverting it to a wrong meaning, or in doubtful and equivocal expressions, to the prejudice of truth or justice; speaking untruth, lying, slandering, backbiting, detracting, tale-bearing, whispering, scoffing, reviling, rash, harsh, and partial censuring; misconstruing intentions, words, and actions; flattering, vain-glorious boasting, thinking or speaking too highly or too meanly of ourselves or others; denying the gifts and graces of God; aggravating smaller faults; hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, when called to a free confession; unnecessary discovering of infirmities; raising false rumours, receiving and countenancing evil reports, and stopping our ears against just defence; evil suspicion; envying or grieving at the deserved credit of any, endeavouring or desiring to impair it, rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy; scornful contempt, fond admiration; breach of lawful promises; neglecting such things as are of good report, and practising, or not avoiding ourselves, or not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name.”