**Ten Commandments Series August 22, 2021**

*The Ninth Commandment*

Exodus 20:16
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Neighbor

* Fellow citizen, or more simply, just **another person**
	+ Not just the person(s) who lives in the community or next door

Purpose of 9th Commandment

* To protect and preserve the life, **integrity** and **reputation** of an individual
* To keep from enacting **capital punishment** against someone with a vendetta
	+ Deuteronomy 17:6
	On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.
* To keep someone who is **innocent** from being convicted of a crime that he or she did not do
	+ Deuteronomy 19:15
	One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.
* To affect proper **church discipline**
	+ Matthew 18:16
	But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’
* To prevent false allegations against **church leaders**
	+ 1 Timothy 5:19
	Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.
* To evidence a **new nature** from God
	+ Colossians 3:9
	Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.

What does the 9th commandment prohibit?

* There are many other sins which are encompassed by this commandment
	+ Slander, gossip, rumors, half-truths, “white” lies, fibs

Is it lying to not disclose everything I know?

* Proverbs 11:13
He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,
But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.
* Proverbs 17:27-28
27 He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. 28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is *considered* prudent.

Where do lies come from?

* All deceptions and falsehoods stem from **demonic influence**
	+ John 8:44
	You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**What does this mean for me?**

* Check everything you read and hear against **Scripture**
	+ John 17:17
	Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth**.
* Make the commitment today to always be truthful in all your **speech, writing, and conduct**
	+ Ephesians 4:25
	Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.
* Seek **forgiveness and restitution** from all lies in which you have been involved (See Matthew 5:23-24)
* If someone has been lying, gossiping or slandering you, go to the person directly, one-on-one (See Matthew 18:15

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* To keep from enacting **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** against someone with a vendetta
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