

Timeline of Truth – Commandment #9: Do Not Bear False Witness (Exodus 20:16)

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying:	
² "I <i>am</i> the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.	
³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.	Nothing / No One But God Directing My Life
⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of <i>anything</i> that <i>is</i> in <u>heaven</u> above, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>earth</u> beneath, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>water</u> under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, <i>am</i> a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth <i>generations</i> of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.	No Self-Defined Version of God
⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold <i>him</i> guiltless who takes His name in vain.	Not Misusing God's Name (Words, Actions)
⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day <i>is</i> the Sabbath of the LORD your God. <i>In it</i> you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who <i>is</i> within your gates. ¹¹ For <i>in</i> six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that <i>is</i> in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.	<u>Rest to Reflect</u> and to <u>Recharge</u>
¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.	Treat Your Parents as God's Special Helpers to You
¹³ "You shall not murder.	No Death-Dealing Thoughts, Words, or Actions
¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. (same in Deut 5:18)	No Intimacy Outside of God-Designed Marriage
¹⁵ "You shall not steal. (same in Deut 5:19)	No Taking of Things that Do Not Belong to You
¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (=Dt 5:20)	No Intentional Misleading of Others

1. Love Is the Basis of Not Bearing False Witness

Rom 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

2. How Serious Is Lying?

Rev 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Prov 6:16-19 These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

3. God Does Not Lie

Num 23:19 God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Titus 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

4. The Trinity Exemplifies Truth

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

5. We Are to Be People of Integrity, Who Live and Speak the Truth

Ex 23:7 "Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.

6. The Devil Is the Source of Lies and Lying

John 8:44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

7. We Are to Reject All Forms of Lying

GOSSIP – Sharing information that is either not yours to share and/or is not verified information.

Ex 23:1 You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

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.

PERJURY – Lying in Legal Circumstances

Deut 19:16-21 "If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, ¹⁷ "then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. ¹⁸ "And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, *if* the witness *is* a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, ¹⁹ "then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. ²⁰ "And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. ²¹ "Your eye shall not pity: life *shall be* for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."

Prov 12:17 He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.

Prov 19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies will not escape.

Prov 24:28 Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, For would you deceive with your lips?

Prov 25:18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.

Luke 3:14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

LYING – Misleading Others by What You Say or Do Not Say

Lev 19:11 `You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.

Ps 119:29 Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously.

Pro 19:9 A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies shall perish.

Matt 5:33-37 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, `You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' ³⁴ "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ "nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ "Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ "But let your `Yes' be `Yes,' and your `No,' `No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

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

1 Tim 1:8-10 But we know that the law *is* good if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, ¹⁰ for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,

1 Tim 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

SLANDER – Undermining the Credibility of Others

James 4:11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Ps 101:5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure.

Prov 10:18 Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.

SILENCE (?) – Not Speaking Up When You Should

Prov 10:18 Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.

8. But What About...?

What About Concealment?

"Concealment is a lie only when the thing hidden from others relates to some moral obligation one has to the hearer." (Rubel Shelley, *Written in Stone*, pp. 178)

- **Example of Immoral Concealment:** When Abraham told only partial truth about Sarah, his wife. Abraham thus allowed Abimelech to commit a moral offense because of the part of the truth that Abraham hid. (Gen 20:1-18)
- **Example of Moral Concealment:** When God told Samuel to go and sacrifice in Bethlehem as commanded, so he could answer truthfully about his mission, though it also included anointing the next king. Samuel was under no moral obligation to tell Saul's guards everything he knew. (1 Sam 16:1-5)

What About Rahab?

"The story of Rahab and the spies at Jericho is found in Joshua 2:1-7. Careful reading of oth story makes it clear that she was neither complimented nor offered as an example to others for her lies. She was saved by grace through faith, in spite of the fact that she not only lied but was also a prostitute." (Rubel Shelley, *Written in Stone*, pp. 180-181)

Jer 9:3 "And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies. They are not **valiant for the truth** on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, And they do not know Me," says the LORD.