

**I. Introduction and Review: What is the greatest moral problem of our day?**

**II. The theology of lying: Every falsehood is a sin against God.**

**A. Truth is a significant kingdom.**

1. God is by nature true and promotes the truth. Titus 1:2 John 14:6
2. He speaks infallibly in His Word. II Tim. 3:16-17 Heb. 1:1f
3. We are made in His image and are to reflect His nature.
4. Satan is by nature a liar and he promotes error. Jn. 8:44 II Co. 11:3 Gen. 3:1f
5. Your integrity demonstrates whose nature you share and whose side you are on.

**B. Why do people lie?**

1. People lie to avoid the consequences of the wrong things they have done.
2. People lie to get something from others
3. Ultimately people lie because they do not believe or fear God. Mk. 7:21f Nu. 32:23

**C. Postmodernism, which claims truth is relative, asserts human autonomy from God.**

**III. What is forbidden by the ninth commandment? Every kind of falsehood.**

**A. Don't bear false witness.**

1. Perjury. Dt. 19:16-21 I Kn. 21:13 Pr. 25:18 Ex. 23:1 Mt. 26:60
2. Breaking of oaths and promises. Mt. 5:33-37
3. Slander, cheating, and plagiarism. Lev. 19:16

**B. Don't deceive.**

1. Manipulating words to mislead. Mt. 23:16-22 5:33-37
2. Telling people what they want to hear.
3. Exaggeration
4. Flattery. Pr. 26:28 29:5 Ps. 12:3
5. Is there such a thing as a "white lie"?
6. You can lie without saying a word. Pr. 6:13

**C. Don't bear false witness against God by false teaching. Js. 3:1f Ro. 3:4**

**D. Don't be careless with truth by claiming to be sure when you aren't. Pr. 16:38 11:13  
Don't be gullible. Prov. 14:15**

**E. Lying has severe consequences. Pr. 19:5**

1. You will destroy your own reputation for integrity. Pr. 12:13
2. You will harden your own heart. Heb. 3:15 Rom. 1:28
3. You will hurt the people you deceived. Pr. 26:28
4. You will destroy relationships. Eph. 4:25
5. Your lies may contribute to others' lying. Pr. 29:12 Luke 17:2
6. Your lies will bring judgement from God. Pr. 12:22 15:3 6:16-19 Nu. 32:23 Ga. 6:7  
Acts 5:1-11 Jn. 8:44 Rev. 21:8 22:15

#### **IV. What is positively required by the ninth commandment?**

##### **A. Tell the Truth. Eph. 4:25**

- 1. Truth is a debt we owe to one another: Intimate fellowship is based upon trust.**
- 2. Be prepared to take responsibility for your actions.**
- 3. Tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.**
- 4. Stand up for those who are slandered.**
- 5. Don't withhold the truth from those who have a right to know.**

##### **B. Keep your commitments, even if it hurts. Ps. 15:4**

- 1. Be careful what you promise. Mt. 5:33-36 Judges 11:30-31 Dt. 23:22**
- 2. Sometimes it is possible to be released from a commitment. Pr. 6:3-5**
- 3. You may be providentially hindered from keeping a commitment. Js. 4:13-17**

##### **C. Proclaim the truth of God in Christ. II Tim. 4:1f John 8:32 Pr. 20:15**

##### **D. Sometimes it is wisest to remain quiet.**

- 1. Don't always say whatever comes to mind. Eph. 4:15,29 Pr. 10:19 Js. 1:19**
- 2. Not everyone has a right to all the truth. Pr. 11:13**

##### **E. Integrity takes faith!**

- 1. You believe that God orders the universe in a way so that you will never ultimately gain by lying or lose by telling the truth. Pr. 21:6 19:6**
- 2. You would rather please God than men. Pr. 12:13 29:25**
- 3. Truth begins in the heart. Ps. 51:6 15:2 24:4 Mt. 12:34**

#### **V. Concluding Applications.**

##### **A. All of us are born liars.**

##### **B. Jesus is the Truth Who makes a way for us to come to the Father. Jn. 8:31-32 14:6 Zech. 8:3,16**

##### **C. When you come to Him, you will share your Father's nature. Heb. 8:10 Eph. 4:25 Col. 3:9-10**

#### **Discussion questions**

- 1. Why is it wrong to lie?**
- 2. Why is every lie a sin against God?**
- 3. Why do people lie?**
- 4. What kinds of falsehood are forbidden under the ninth commandment?**
- 5. What positively is commanded by the fourth commandment?**
- 6. What should you do if you have made a promise or commitment that you now regret?**
- 7. What is the worst kind of lie?**
- 8. What is the best kind of truth-telling?**
- 9. What are the consequences of lying?**
- 10. Why does integrity take faith?**
- 11. Are you living a double life?**
- 12. Is there something you have been hiding from others who have a right to know?**
- 13. How can a liar change his ways?**