

Six Ways to Love People: Forming the Foundation for Future Happiness
The Ninth Commandment: Love People by Speaking the Truth in Love

Exodus 20:16
Page 61 in Church Bible
The Lord's Day Morning
July 29, 2018

Q112: What is the aim of the ninth commandment?

A112: That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing. Rather, in court and everywhere else, I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind; these are the very devices the devil uses, and they would call down on me God's intense wrath. I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it. And I should do what I can to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.

—The Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

“Deceit of Every Kind”: Twenty Ways to Lie

1. Perjury: Making false statements while under oath in a human court or not, usually to facilitate or cover up all manner of sin (Gen. 3:1; Ps. 19:5).
2. Suborning perjury: Manipulating others to commit perjury, by threat, flattery, or reward (1 Kings 21:10).
3. Misquoting: Intentionally or carelessly misrepresenting the words and/or views of another person (Gen. 3:1,3).
4. Gossip: Repeating damaging statements about another person that we have not confirmed with people who are not part of the solution (2 Cor. 12:20; 1 Tim. 5:13).
5. Slander: Intentionally saying damaging things about another person that you know are not true (Ps. 15:3).
6. Rash condemnation: Making allegations before weighing all the evidence (Jas. 1:19; Ecc. 5:2).
7. Hypocrisy: Condemning others by a standard you fail to meet, giving the false impression that you are meeting the standard (Mt. 7:1,2; 23:24,25).
8. False profession: Professing to be something (i.e., in public prayers, songs, baptism, communion, and creeds) that you are not (Mt. 6:5; 7:22; Gal. 2:4).
9. Blasphemy: Lying about God; teaching false doctrine (Gen. 3:4; Mt. 12:31; 2 Tim. 4:3).
10. Boasting: Exalting our strengths and hiding our weaknesses to make ourselves look better and others look worse than is actually the case; taking credit and placing blame (Pr. 27:2; Ps. 12:3; Gen. 3:12).
11. Exaggeration: Careless use of superlatives or over/under stating to exalt ourselves (Lk. 22:24; Acts 5:1–11).
12. Promise-breaking: Making promises, vows, contracts, we don't intend to keep, or breaking promises we intended to keep that proved to be difficult; (Ps. 15:4; Dt. 23:21; Mal. 2:14).
13. Willful gullibility: Uncritical acceptance of accusations that confirm our bias (Pr. 18:17).
14. Deceptive gestures: Using body language to deceive others (Pr. 6:12,13).
15. Appeal to humor: Seeking to escape the consequences of lying by claiming it was a joke (Pr. 26:19).
16. Half-truths: A misleading statement that contains an element of truth or key omissions (Lk. 23:2).
17. Flattery: Insincerely praising another person in order to use and manipulate them (Pr. 29:5).
18. Silence: Failing to speak the truth when I should, giving the impression I agree with a lie (Ecc.3:7).
19. Libel: Doing any of these things through the published word or videos in news articles, texts, emails, social media, especially with the intent to damage the reputation of another person (2 Th. 2:2).
20. Pragmatism: Forsaking truth by excusing, defending, or otherwise enabling liars who seem to be “useful” (Ro. 1:32).

Think About Two Questions Before You Speak

1. Is this _____?

2. Is this _____?