

## “The Ten Commandments (Part 10 – No Lying)”

The Lord speaks The Ninth Commandment in Exodus 20:16: “*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*” Because God is truth, we must tell the truth! This is a Command against lying, or saying things that are untrue, or being insincere, or speaking empty or frivolous words. A “lie” is *a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive*. In also includes *conveying a false impression*.

Before we consider some ways that this Ninth Commandment is often broken, let’s consider the subject of **gossip**. Technically, gossip may not necessarily be lying, because it may be something factual or truthful (but scandalous in nature) that you are spreading. Gossip is *idle talk or rumor about the affairs of others*, and it is identified as a sin in Scripture. Don’t repeat anything that is juicy or salacious about another person; in fact, refuse to listen to such fodder.

Now, let’s consider seven ways that this Ninth Commandment is often broken. The Ninth Commandment is broken by:

- 1) **False accusations**. This is when we accuse someone of something that is not true. Be very careful about accusing someone of something, especially since you have no way of knowing their intentions or motives.
- 2) **Slander**. This is making a false statement designed to harm or defame someone. Have nothing to do with hurling mean, untrue lies at others because you want to hurt them.
- 3) **Flattery**. This is when you give an insincere compliment for personal gain. A flatterer is one who pats you on the back today, only to locate a soft spot to insert a knife tomorrow. Don’t lie through such pretense.
- 4) **Boasting or arrogance**. This is where we make a lot of noise about ourselves, usually exaggerating or stretching the truth. Don’t inflate the truth about yourself to make yourself look better. Never lie by embellishing the truth.
- 5) **Hypocrisy**. This is when we live a lie by living a double-life. This is when, what we portray on the outside, is not really what things are like on the inside. Hypocrisy is being content with erecting a façade and merely playing a part or role.
- 6) **False teaching**. This is when we claim the Bible teaches something that in fact, it doesn’t teach. Stop telling people things that aren’t true because you love them. Don’t lie to people by affirming that their sin is OK (when it’s not).
- 7) **Silence**. This is when we lie by not speaking up when we know a truth that could exonerate someone. Don’t be guilty of the *slander of silence* by not setting the record straight when you have information that would do so.

## Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Don’t lie to God. Don’t deceive yourself. Don’t lie to others.
2. Don’t irreparably damage the reputation of others by spreading juicy gossip.

3. Give prayerful thought to where you land with: making false accusations, slandering someone, using flattery, boasting or being arrogant, living a lie through hypocrisy, telling people things are OK that the Bible says are not OK, staying silent when you have information that could set the record straight.

4. Understand that there will always be a tension between love and truth, because we can't give ground on either one.