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Number 9:
Exodus
20: 16

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour

no lying



God is Truth. It is one of His characteristics.

father of lies. Let's see his classic lie in Genesis 3:1 - 5:

In the same way that the faithful God said "no adultery" and the Author of Life said "no murder". so the God of truth says "no falsehood".

He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Why do people give false testimony?

- ***to hurt someone***
- ***to get their own back***
- ***to get the better of someone***
- ***to get their own way***
- ***to advance themselves***

Just like in previous weeks this can be summed up with the word "selfishness".

Not a complete lie, notice. He distorts the truth just a little bit. He sows doubt slowly. "White lies" are the most dangerous because they are so believable.

But what about 'white lies', things that aren't totally false but just twist the truth a little bit.

And if you tell one of those....you "belong to your father the devil".

Jesus said in John 8:

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. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! (verses 44,45)

God's nature is Truth. We have to look for truth in all we do and think and say.

Think through some of the things you have said in the last 24 hours. Have you aimed to: deceive? mislead? or to be totally honest?

All lies come from the devil, who is the

Below is a reprint of part of Titus which sums up what the Christian character should be like:

Titus ch 1:

6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

7 Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

8 Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.

11 They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."

13 This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith

14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.

How well do you measure up to this check list?



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