

CONNECT

bella vista baptist church

Sunday, November 16, 2025



DECEIT

commandment nine

Exodus 20:16; Ephesians 4:25

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

The BIG Idea

Lying reveals the pride in my heart.

Introduction

Lying is one of the earliest sinful behaviors we pick up. "Not me" is the common answer of every youngster being interrogated about some preschool crime while holding the evidence in his little hand. And it's a behavior we struggle to rid ourselves of even as adults. Though as adults we become quite adept at justifying our lies and classifying our untruths. What is the difference between a fib and a lie?

The Ninth Commandment forbids lying to or about someone. It first had a judicial application. After all, you can't get to the truth in court if someone is lying. But the commandment's application goes beyond a courtroom into every day life. After all, we will all answer to the Judge who never lies and requires truthfulness among His subjects.

And He is the One in whom we can place our absolute trust.

Verses for Meditation

Proverbs 12:22

Luke 10:25-37

Ephesians 4:15, 25

Matthew 5:33-37

Questions for Reflection

How has this Sunday's consideration of the Ninth Commandment affected how you think about lying and deceit?

Why is telling the truth important in a courtroom?

Pastor Brent said that in general the Ninth Commandment prohibits any deceptive, slanderous, or empty talk about someone. In what ways might we be guilty of lying about someone to others?

What relational affect does lying have on a marriage, a family, a church, or a society in general?

How you have experienced or witnessed the affect of lying in a relationship?

What affect does lying have on your gospel witness?

What motivations do we have for lying?

Read Ephesians 4:15. What is the difference between speaking truth in hate versus speaking truth in love? Why is love essential for speaking truth?

Read Ephesians 4:25. What is required before speaking the truth? Why does our relationship with one another in the body of Christ require truthfulness?

Read Matthew 5:33-37. Why does Jesus say, "Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'"? What happens to our reputation and our gospel witness if we speak truth but do not do truth?

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

I'm so glad I learned to trust him, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
and I know that he is with me, will be with me to the end.

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust him more!