

The Big Ten: Are you a devil?

It seems like God keeps bringing up the topics about the words we speak. Whether preaching the book of James or the Ten Commandments, it has come up over and over the last several months.

On one hand, there is a lot to be said about the things we speak. On the other hand, maybe we are not getting it.....maybe there is something the Lord is trying to reveal to His people. I ask that this morning you open your heart to hear what the Spirit is saying to you.

PRAY

Each day, each situation, every person gets to choose to be honest or dishonest. There are times it is an easy decision to be honest, and times where it may be difficult..... It's easy to be honest when you are right and there are no consequences. But it can be difficult to be honest when it may hurt someone, or it may make you look bad, damage your reputation, or when it may cost you money.

Most of you know that it is human nature, because of sin, that a person's first inclination is to take care of themselves, even if that means being dishonest. A child will lie about something so petty like brushing their teeth, taking a bath, going to bed when they are supposed to. But as they grow up, typically there is progress, they learn it's wrong to lie about these things and that they are important to do.

At first a child will lie about anything though. The hope is that as they learn right from wrong, it happens less and less. The same should be said for adults. If Jesus is your Lord and Savior, then by the sanctifying working of the Holy Spirit in your life, you should be lying less and less.

Exodus 20:1-2 (HCSB)

1 Then God spoke all these words:

2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

Commandment 9 -

Exodus 20:16 (HCSB)

16 Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Do not - Our Creator, the Living God, said Do not give false testimony against your neighbor. Most of our society take this as a recommendation instead of a commandment. They justify the things they say based on their skewed point of view. Plus, it's true, right? "I mean this says we can't give

FALSE testimony.....so what if I'm speaking the truth. Actually, as a believer I'm supposed to speak the truth right?"

Yes you are....., the truth of the gospel! That Jesus came, died and rose again to offer salvation to the sinner and He is coming back for the saint. Speak that truth. Nowhere are we given the straight OK to speak EVERYTHING that we PERCEIVE as truth!

Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

We're going to look at this in two parts. "Do not give false testimony", then later "against your neighbor."

So what does it mean to give false testimony. It means to speak wrong or deceptive evidence. Or to lie, withhold or manipulate the truth. See if we can take the against your neighbor out for a moment, it really shouldn't be necessary. First, we should just not lie, withhold, or manipulate the truth no matter who or what it's about.

Did you know that there are somethings that the Lord hates?

Proverbs 6:16-19 (HCSB)

16 The Lord hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to Him:
17 arrogant eyes, **a lying tongue**, hands that shed innocent blood,
18 a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil,
19 **a lying witness who gives false testimony**, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.

God hates all seven of these things. But notice He hates a lying tongue, AND a lying witness who gives false testimony. Lying is mentioned twice out of seven things.....He must really hate lying! There is a reason for this, it is the work of the devil. It is the way the devil works. He lies to people and provokes people to lie to others and to God.

Sin entered this world through a lie. Satan lied to Eve in the garden, he deceived her, created doubt, twisting what God had said, even calling God a liar. It's because of lies that our world is such a mess.....and it started with the devil.

John 8:44 (HCSB)

44 You are of your father the Devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of liars.

When we lie we are doing satan's work. That is truth. This is why God hates it. And when we are doing satan's work, we are opposing God, His goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Revelation 21:8 (HCSB)

8 But the cowards, unbelievers, vile, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

The lying lifestyle will cause you to end up in hell. Lying is not a godly characteristic, it's a characteristic of the devil. That's why there is a place for the liar in the lake of fire.

If you have been saved by Christ, changed, and transformed by the Spirit of God, then you have been changed and your lying tongue will cease! No you won't be perfect, but you'll be convicted when it happens and you'll repent, correct yourself, and move forward.

There are seven things that God hates and lying is 2 of them! My family knows there are 3 things that I hate, staticy clothes, soap that doesn't lather, and liars!

Lies break trust, lies hurt people, lies cause separation, lies bring forth death!

And it doesn't matter what kind of lie it is. Most lies are to protect yourself. To make you look good, or at least not look bad.

There are a few different ways that people lie:

White lie - the little "harmless" lies, often used when trying to be tactful or polite

Direct, bald-faced - a flat out lie and everyone knows it, and you probably don't care

Fabrication - just straight up making something up that isn't true

Exaggeration - to make something much bigger than it really is

Deception - to mislead

Omission - keeping quiet when you know the truth, leaving out things you know are important

False Promises - intentionally making promises you never had any intention of keeping

When is it ok to lie? Let me answer you with another question. When is it ok to murder? Or when is it ok to commit adultery? When is it ok to dishonor your parents, steal, have other gods, have idols, ,etc. You get the point? It's not ok to lie.

At a previous job there were salesmen that would call for me and the receptionist knew I didn't have time or want to talk to them, she'd say "do you want me to tell them you are not in the office?". I would respond, "No, tell them I'm busy or not available right now."

Most people would say, what's the difference, does it even matter? It does to me. I try not to lie!

What about if you are protecting someone else? What if terrorists are knocking at your door looking for Christians to convert or kill? If they ask, should you tell them you follow Jesus? YES.

Matthew 10:33 (HCSB)

33 But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven.

So maybe you profess your faith but they say “are there any others?” and you know your family is hiding in the closet. Is it ok to lie? NO, fear does not give you an excuse to sin! I understand what could happen, but fear is a tool of the devil, not of God, if you are led by the Holy Spirit, He will not tell you to lie! I’m not saying give up your family, just don’t lie! Refuse to answer, say “I don’t have to tell you”, yell “run!” or something, but don’t sin!

What about to comfort someone? You want them to feel better by believing a lie? Well then, I guess we can just all do what makes us feel good then and throw righteousness out the window?

I’m not saying we shouldn’t be sensitive to people’s feelings, we should, but we also should not sin in order to do it. Learn the art of deflection, changing the subject, something if you have to, but don’t let that something be a lie.

Lying is the work of the enemy....always. 100% of the time.

Colossians 3:8-9 (HCSB)

8 But now you must also put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices

Lying is a practice of the unregenerate people....those who have not been transformed by the living God. If you have been born again, if your faith and hope is in Jesus, He has made you new, and you have put off the old self, the liar, and its practices.

Exodus 20:16 (HCSB)

16 Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

We should not give false testimony, we should not lie, I think we covered that well, that can stand on its own. But look at the second part.....against your neighbor.

Whether it’s a lie or if it’s true, when we speak against our neighbor that is called slander. Slander is when we speak things that causes injury to another’s name.

The word for slander back in Colossians 3 was blasphemia (blas-fam-ia) what we know in English as blasphemy. This is what Jesus was accused of, blaspheming God’s name by indicating that He, Himself was God. They didn’t believe Him, only He was telling the truth.

But let’s look at another use of the word slander that may be a little more impactful.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (HCSB)

1 But know this: Difficult times will come in the last days. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, **slanderers**, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, 4 traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people!

This word here for slander as a very similar meaning, it's to be slanderous, accuse falsely. The Greek word here is diabolos (de-abo-los), where we get the English word diablo and from that.....devil.

In the last days, people will be, not just slanderers, but devils. They will be doing the devil's work by tearing down the people that God created. They will be liars and they will speak against their neighbor. They will sow destruction. They will leave death and rubble in their path. THIS is the result of the devil's work.....death and destruction

To be a slanderer is to be the accuser.....satan's gig.....

Revelation 12:10 (HCSB)

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of His Messiah have now come,
because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown out:
the one who accuses them before our God day and night.

God commands us to not lie, and not accuse or tear down others.....because He is already hearing it from satan himself day and night.

Hear me when I say this.....it doesn't even matter if it is true. God already knows, let Him handle it!

Those who have been around many kids at once....Have you had a kid tell you something that another kid did, then another tells you, then another? I had this happen on the van recently....tell story.

God knows, He's the adult in this situation, let Him handle it as He sees fit. And don't go around complaining to others. You are still accusing, still tearing down, still causing destruction, stop doing the devil's work. TODAY.....STOP IT!

I'm not saying you can't let God know what's on your heart. But stop there. Don't look for His punishment upon the person. Just trust that God will take care of it.

If we are ever going to be a body, a family, in unity. We first have to stop the slander and division among God's people.....if that's you, you are employed by satan and it's time to quit your job! Jesus is hiring!

INSTEAD.....be uplifting, encouraging, edifying, exhort one another.

Just listen to these few verses:

Hebrews 3:13-14 (HCSB)

13 But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception. 14 For we have become companions of the Messiah if we hold firmly until the end the reality that we had at the start.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (HCSB)

24 And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, 25 not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Colossians 3:16 (HCSB)

16 Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (HCSB)

11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

Church let today be the day that we see a turning point among the people of God. Let today be the day that they lying tongues cease, the slanderous mindset be broken off of the church.

Let us be a people of God's love. Of encouragers. Of Unity. It's what Jesus desires, it's His design for His church.