

Holding onto truth – 9th commandment

Exodus 20:

¹⁶Do not tell lies about others. (CEV)

¹⁶Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. (KJV)

I want you to turn to the person beside you and for one minute answer what you would do in this dilemma.

Your wife/ sister/ girlfriend has just spent \$100 on a dress that they just love. You think it looks like rubbish. They turn to you with a sparkle in their eye and ask you “how do I look in this dress?”

What do you say?

The basic message of the 9th commandment is don't ruin someone else's reputation by telling lies about.

The bible repeatedly describes three types of lies that destroy other people;

1. _____

2. _____

Slander is malicious untruths that are spoken with the purpose of discrediting someone else.

3. _____

Flattery is saying things to a person's face that you would never say behind their back. Flattery is insincere praise.

HOW TO HOLD ONTO TRUTH

a) I need to _____ my own _____.

b) I need to refuse *gossip*

There are three questions that if we ask them of ourselves before we open our mouths that will keep us safe from the sin of gossip.

- (i) **Have I spoken to the person privately to try to help them?**
- (ii) **Is it true? Virtually all second or third hand negative information is not true.**
- (iii) **Will it do anybody any good to say it?**

“If you can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all”

c) Get _____ with The Truth

John 8:31 Jesus told the people who had faith in him, “If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. ³² You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Jesus said “I am the way, The Truth and The Life, there is no other way to the Father accept through me.”

FOR FURTHER STUDY IN SMALL GROUPS

Dilemma: You believe but can't prove that your intermediate age child is telling a lie. *What do you do?*

Dilemma: Someone wants to visit you and you just want to have some time alone. They are very sensitive and easily hurt. *What do you do?*

Dilemma: Your spouse asks you if you have forgiven them but you are still really you are ticked off at him/ her but can't find loving words to respond right now. *What do you do?*

Dilemma: You have had a stink week. Tired. Sick. Stressed and an acquaintance asks 'how are you.' *What do you do?*

1. Is it ever OK to tell a lie (maybe just a little white lie)?
2. How can you tell if someone is lying?
3. What messages will our children get when an unwanted caller phones you and you tell them to “say I am not home.”
4. Why is gossip always rated as one of the worst sins in the bible? Eg Romans 1:28-30; 1 Tim 3:11
5. When someone wants to pass on an evil report (criticism of someone else to you) what push backs/ phrases could you use to stop them?
6. How can the word 'but' be opening up suspicion in the minds of others and effectively be a slanderous word?
7. Explain what Proverbs 29:5 might mean.
8. How does staying connected with Jesus help me live an honest life?