



The 10 Commandments  
**The Power of Truth**  
*The Ninth Commandment*

**Truth and Justice**  
*Where there is no truth  
 there can be no justice!*

*As much as the truth may hurt—to make 'right' decisions you must base the decision on what is 'true.' Wrong facts lead to wrong conclusions!*

**Introduction:**

**The Drop-Dead Lie:** The Bible is full of liars. The serpent who lied to Eve. Jacob who tricked his brother into selling his birthright. The lying prophets who criticized Jeremiah, and many others. The most notable New Testament lie was from Ananias and Sapphira Acts 4.

**A. Nothing But the Truth**

1. **The context:** The immediate context for this commandment is a court of law. It governs the legal testimony a witness gives in a public trial before a jury.
2. **The ancient world:** They were not presumed innocent until proven guilty, but presumed guilty until proven innocent.
3. **God's standard:** There had to be more than one witness [Deut 19:15] "...By the mouth of two or three..." Also, if it was a capital crime the accuser had to throw the first stone. [Deut 17:7] If the witness turned out to be a false witness—he got the punishment, not the accused. [Deut 19:18-19]

**B. Nothing But Lies James 3:1-10**

The wider application of this commandment is that God forbids every form of falsehood. Here are some of the forms of lying:

1. **Falsehoods:** A falsehood can be described as an invention, an equivocation, a falsification, a fabrication, or a prevarication.
2. **Dishonesty:** Big lies—the whoppers and the little lies—the half-truths, the flatteries, and the fibs.
3. **Embellishment:** Something that is technically true, yet nevertheless intended to deceive such as overstating our accomplishments or a true story to make us look better or someone else to look bad.
4. **Deception:** To mislead, misquote, and misinterpret. To twist people's words, taking things out of context. In these and many other ways, we exchange the truth for a lie.

**C Nothing But Truth in Love Eph 4:15-16**

1. **Post-truth society:** "We are called to be a 'people of truth' in a post-truth society." *Charles Colson*
2. **Called to truth-telling:** We are called to truth-telling because we serve a truth-telling God. Our communication should be grounded in the **character of God.** *Rom 3:4; 1 Joh 1:14; Isa 53:9; Joh 14:6; Joh 18:37; 1 Joh 4:6; Joh 17:17b.*
3. **Speak truth in love:** Keeping the 9th Commandment does not mean we speak out everything that comes to our mind. Love should dictate what we say and when we say it.
4. **Grow in truth and love:** Learning to speak and live 'truth in love,' we grow and mature as individuals and as a church. Speaking truth in love builds up—it does not tear down.

**Exodus 20:16 (NKJV)**

**:16** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**James 3:1-10 (NKJV)**

**:1** My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

**:2** For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

**:3** Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

**:4** Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

**:5** Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

**:6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

**:7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

**:8** But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

**:9** With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude [likeness] of God.

**:10** Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

**Ephesians 4:15-16 (NKJV)**

**:15** ...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

**:16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.