

Sovereign Grace Church

“Truth-tellers” outline

May 28, 2017

Exodus 20: 16 HC 112

To be a false witness is an official way of saying that you are a liar. To lie or bear false witness is a sin that strikes at the very core of society. In order to make plans and produce goods one must have direct contact with reality. Lying is really an effort to distort or refashion reality. But reality cannot ultimately be distorted or refashioned! It simply is what it is! My telling myself that this lamp by my desk is not here does NOT make it disappear. If you tell yourself that there is an open door through which you intend to walk when there is not you will suffer the rude acknowledgment that your nose IS there...or at least WAS!

Deceit and lying are tools of the Devil and all those who have taken his path. We must remember that lying is not the same thing as making a mistake. Lying is deliberate and bears moral responsibility. Making a mistake will perhaps issue in serious consequences but there is no moral culpability. The reason that lying is so easy is because we naturally want to replace ourselves with Reality. If WE are the center of reality then lying is just a means to cope with a world who doesn't recognize our significance.

Lying is a sin that starts in the inner person & may or may not manifest itself in outward deeds. The hypocrite is an expert at presenting himself as truthful when hiding a heart devoted to deceit. The point is you don't have to lie to be a liar! We will consider this commandment & certain problems relevant to it in today's sermon.

1. What is Truth? Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12

2. Courts and Vows/Oaths Matt 5: 37

3. We are to speak the truth about Ourselves Rom. 12:3; Lk 18:11

4. We are to speak the truth about our Neighbors Zech 8: 16-17; Jms 5: 20; Matt 7:1; Jn 4

5. The Problem of the Complex Question Heb. 11: 27; Acts 4: 19-20

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. What was the first lie you remembering lying? What did you learn from that experience? Were you found out? If not, have you confessed and made any necessary restitution? If you haven't, do you think lying is not that serious? Defend your answer after reading Revelation 22: 14-15. Is it possible to be a liar without lying?**
- 2. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to use the fallacy of the Complex Question? Have you ever used that fallacy as a means to evade responsibility for deceiving someone....rather than as a means to protect the innocent?**
- 3. What are examples of lies that are told that seem innocent & without real consequence? Can we ignore these “white” lies? Why or why not? Is it possible to give someone a surprise party without lying to them?**
- 4. Can lying develop into an addiction? What does a habit of lying do to your testimony and character? How does it make your life easier? How does it make your life more difficult? What is the first step in defeating this habit? Is it just to make yourself quit lying or is it to understand why lying is such an attraction?**
- 5. What did Jesus mean when he said *“let you yes be yes and your no, no”*? Matt. 5: 33-37 How can oaths and vows be used to actually deceive people? What are proper ways to take an oath or a vow? Or are there no proper ways?**