

**Law 9: To Tell The Truth  
Exodus 20:16**

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

What God most specifically condemns in the ninth commandment is a lying witness, someone who testifies falsely against anyone accused of a crime.

The ninth commandment means, "You shall not lie."

When the New Testament lists the sins we need to avoid, it often tells us to watch what we say.

**Gossip** is talking about people in a way that damages their reputation with others. As wrong as it is to gossip, it is just as wrong to listen to gossip.

If lying is forbidden, then **what is required is telling the truth.**

Is there ever a time when it is permissible to lie?

If there is one thing God hates, it is the lies that Christians tell to make themselves look more righteous than they really are.

The biggest lie is the one we live with every day, the lie we work so hard to maintain. It is the lie that we are on the inside what we pretend to be on the outside.

I'm not who you think I am.  
I'm not who I think I am.  
I'm who you think I think I am.

John 8:32

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Colossians 3:9-10

Do not lie to one another,  
seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices,  
and have put on the new self,  
which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

**REFLECTION:**

Do I sometimes exaggerate in order  
to make myself look better than I am?

Am I honest because "it's the best policy"  
or because I serve the God of truth?