

I. Two sons (Luke 15:11-32)

- A. Both sons' desire: life without the father
- B. God's commandments

II. Bearing false witness against your neighbor

- A. Speaking falsely (Hosea 4:1-2; Ephesians 4:25)
- B. Of another person to their harm (Genesis 3:11-13; 39)
 - i. Who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:25-37)
 - ii. Why are there places in the Bible where falsehood is praised or at least not condemned (Exodus 1:15-21; Joshua 2:1-21; 6:17-25; 1 Samuel 21:10-15)
- C. To their harm and the perversion of justice (Deuteronomy 17:6)
 - i. God loves justice (Deuteronomy 16:18-20; Psalm 9:7; 33:5; 103:6; 140:12; 146:7; Proverbs 21:3; 28:5; 29:26)
- D. For personal gain or under social pressure

III. Resist the pressure to condemn

- A. Do not go with your community (church, family, party, city, group of friends) when it does evil. (Exodus 23:1-3)
- B. Do not prejudice yourself against the poor or the rich, the powerless or the powerful. (Leviticus 19:15-16)
- C. The Lord hates false witnesses. (Proverbs 6:16-19; 14:25; 19:5,9; 21:28; Psalm 27:12)
- D. False witness comes from the heart. (Matthew 5:19)
- E. Leave justice in God's hands, concern yourself with obeying him.

IV. The innocent victim

- A. All human beings are breakers of this commandment.
- B. Jesus, the only truly innocent man, was put to death on the testimony of false witnesses. (Mark 14:55-59)
- C. Jesus' followers can expect to suffer at the hands of false witnesses. (Acts 6:13; 16:20)
- D. But our bigger problem is the true witness of God's justice is against us (John 8:1-11; Hebrews 12:22-24)
- E. The blood of Jesus testifies in our favor.