

Serm. Series: The Good, The Goad, The Guide: Ten Commandments

Sermon Text: Exodus 20:16 Love Truth: The Ninth Commandment

The God of Truth commands us to practice truth for the good of our neighbor and the glory of God and not to lie for selfish gain, as He conforms us to Jesus who is the Truth.

1) God commands us to practice truth because God is true.

- a) Why “practice” and not “tell”?
- b) What does it mean that God is true?
 - i) There is no standard of truth external to God against which God is measured. He is the standard of truth (John 3:33; Rom. 3:4)
 - ii) Distinguished from false gods (Jer. 10:1-10)
 - iii) Faithful (Prov. 30:5; Num. 23:13)
- c) **Application:** God is completely trustworthy.

2) God commands us to practice truth for the good of our neighbor.

- a) Other sins in the **category** of “false witness” (lying)
 - i) Perjury: Exodus 23:2-3, 6
 - ii) Slander: Exodus 23:1; Psalm 101:5
 - iii) Cursing: James 3:9-10
 - iv) Gossip: Romans 1:29-32; Prov. 11:13; 18:8; 26:20; 1 Tim. 5:13
 - v) Flattery: Psalm 12:2-3
 - vi) False Teaching: James 3:1-8; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - vii) Hypocrisy: Matt. 15:8
- b) The practice of truth blesses our neighbor
 - i) Just Testimony/Judgment: Prov. 31:7
 - ii) Protecting Reputations: 1 Peter 4:8
 - iii) Maintaining Confidence: Proverbs 11:13; 20:19
 - iv) Wise Counsel: Proverbs 12:18
 - v) Sound Teaching: Titus 2:1; 2 Timothy 1:13; 1 Timothy 4:16; Ephesians 4:15-16, 25, 29
 - vi) Rejoicing in God’s Gifts and Graces in Others: Romans 1:8; 2 Timothy 1:4-5; 2 John 4
 - vii) Walking in Truth: 3 John 4; 2 John 4-7

3) God commands us to practice truth for the glory of God.

- a) Truth-telling under oath glorifies God’s absolute ownership and sovereignty (Matthew 5:33-37)
- b) Truth-telling reflects God’s character.
- c) Therefore, God hates falsehood (Proverbs 6:16-19)

4) God conforms us to Jesus who is the Truth.

- a) Jesus, the Faithful Witness (John 18:37-38; 1 Timothy 6:13; Revelation 1:5; John 14:6)
- b) Jesus’ Faithful Witnesses (Revelation 2:10; 11:1-13)
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Every idle word (Matt. 12:36)
 - ii) What about deception in war?
 - iii) Brutally honest?

Doxology: Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory, for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness. Psalm 115:1