

WRITTEN IN  
STONE

# The Ninth Commandment: Lying

**EXODUS 20:16**

“The old view: Lying, like other issues of morality, was seen only as black and white. Children were taught that all lying was bad and deserving of strict punishment and frequently reminded that lying will make your nose grow as long as Pinocchio’s.

New view: Today, some lying is considered normal. In fact, a child’s first few lies are seen as an important step in the development of the self.”

*(The Truth About Lying)*



**CHARLES COLSON**

“Truth is made. Let us flesh out this postmodern argument. If truth is a social construction, then we create the truth as we go along. It is not really true if it is just what we call true. Postmodernism breaks truth down into different cultural linguistic systems and different systems of power and oppression, so there are different truths for different people, for different places, for different needs...



**AL MOHLER**

“...for different purposes,  
for different manipulations.  
In the end, there is no  
distinction between the truth  
and the lie, and in this brave  
new postmodern world we  
are supposed to understand  
that belief in truth is a luxury  
we can no longer afford.  
Such is the postmodern mind.  
It is the denial of any  
responsibility to tell the truth  
to one another...the denial  
that truth even exists.”  
*(Words from the Fire)*



**AL MOHLER**

“If there is no truth,  
there are no lies.  
If there is no truth,  
there is no God.  
If there is no lie,  
there is no sin.  
If there is no sin,  
there is no Gospel—  
it is all a lie.”

*(Words from the Fire)*



**AL MOHLER**

91% of those surveyed lie routinely about matters they consider trivial

36% lie about important matters

86% lie regularly to parents

75% to friends

73% to siblings

69% to spouses

**DO YOU LIE?**

**(THE DAY AMERICA TOLD THE TRUTH)**

“Just how important is honesty, after all?... Without honesty, there can be no confidence in legal contracts, no shared confidence in social arrangements, and no authority for the rule of law. As argued by Enlightenment philosopher Immanuel Kant, a healthy society can't remain healthy so long as it accepts lies...



**AL MOHLER**



“...‘For a lie always harms another,’ Kant asserted, ‘if not some other particular man, still it harms mankind generally, for it vitiates the source of law itself.’”

*(Culture Shift)*



**AL MOHLER**

G  
O  
D

#1 – Lordship

#2 – Idolatry

#3 – Representation

#4 – Sabbath

#5 – Honor #6 – Murder #7 – Adultery

MAN

#8 – Stealing #9 – Lying #10 – Coveting

# DIVIDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. What is lying?
2. Why is lying forbidden?
3. What are some examples of breaking the Ninth Commandment?
4. What about Rahab and other examples of deception in the Bible?

## **FOUR QUESTIONS**

- Lying: Withholding the truth from someone who deserves (or has earned the right) to know the truth
- Synonyms – fabrication, falsification
- Deception: withholding the truth from someone who has forfeited their right to know the truth

**WHAT IS LYING?**

*If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses.  
But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.*

**NUMBERS 35:30**

- *10:18 – The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.*
- *12:17 – Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.*
- *19:9 – A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.*

## **LYING IN PROVERBS**

1. We must speak with truth from our hearts (Psalm 15:2).
2. Malice is not to be on our tongues (Psalm 35:11).
3. We are to watch every word that comes from our lips (Psalm 141:3).
4. Our words can cause disunity among friends (Proverbs 6:19).
5. Being truthful can save lives (Proverbs 14:25).
6. Being truthful can convince people to be righteous (Proverbs 16:21).
7. Our words will show our condemnation or our heavenly destiny (Matthew 12:36-37).

**FREE SPEECH IN THE BIBLE?**

1. Because it denies God as the truth (John 17:3; Psalm 119:142, 151; Proverbs 6:16-19; 12:22).

**WHY IS LYING FORBIDDEN?**



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2. Because a person's name is valuable (Proverbs 22:1-2).

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4. Because God's truth is not for sale (Proverbs 23:23).

**WHY IS LYING FORBIDDEN?**

“Buy the truth.  
Here is the treasure...  
Here is the piece of  
merchandise which you  
must buy, but must not  
sell. You may give all  
for it, but you may take  
nothing in exchange for  
it, since there is nothing  
that can be likened  
unto it.”



**CHARLES  
SPURGEON**

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2. Because a person's name is valuable (Proverbs 22:1-2).
3. Because words matter (Proverbs 18:21).
4. Because God's truth is not for sale (Proverbs 23:23).
5. Because that is how non-Christians speak (Colossians 3:9).

**WHY IS LYING FORBIDDEN?**

1. Making false accusations (John 8:44)

**EXAMPLES OF BREAKING THE  
NINTH COMMANDMENT?**

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5. Calling evil good and good evil
6. Hypocrisy
7. Flattery (Psalm 12:2-3)
8. Blame-shifting, not keeping vows

**EXAMPLES OF BREAKING THE  
NINTH COMMANDMENT?**

- Joshua 2
- Rahab was a spiritually immature woman.
- There is a difference between lying and deception.
- She is never commended for her deception just her faith (Hebrews 11:31).

**WHAT ABOUT RAHAB AND DECEIT  
IN THE BIBLE?**

*<sup>16</sup> These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; <sup>17</sup> do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.*

**ZECHARIAH 8:16-17**