

CALL to PRAYER - Pray about the crisis of truth in society and in the church. (2%, 6%, 21%)

Exodus 20:16 - Lying is not Loving

Intro - Coming to the end of the list of Gods laws for life/love. The last ones are not little ones. Rule #9 is about lying...which is often whitewashed as being *white lies*...no biggie/small one. Our tongues are little, but they do great damage. Language is a great gift from God, but sin corrupts all His gifts. The gift of communication is often used for deception...brings destruction. It was a little *white lie* that started it all. God was slandered and Paradise was squandered. A false witness rose up against the God of Truth...& truth was forsaken and lies were embraced. That fondling of falsehood gave birth to all the sin, misery, sickness, pain & death in this world. Who you believe & what you say matters. *Perfect, Perjury, Perfidy, Pinocchio-y*

PERFECT

1. God is perfect. *Truth* is one of the perfections of His attributes. He is the God of Truth
 - a. Jesus is The Truth - John 1:14; 14:6. He is called Faithful & True - Rev. 19:11
 - b. The Spirit is The Spirit of Truth - John 16:13 (John 14:17; 15:26)
 - c. It is impossible for God to lie - Heb. 6:18. He cannot lie - Titus 1:2
 - d. His word is true - John 17:17; Ps. 119:160. The Law of the Lord is perfect - Ps. 19:7
2. Lies altered the perfect world God made
 - a. *"Did God really say?" "You will not die" "your eyes will be opened...be like God"*
 - b. Slander & lies turned paradise in perdition...blessing into curse...life into death
3. God hates lying
 - a. Prov. 6:16-19. Two (3?) of the seven things God hates has to do with lying
 - i. Prov. 12:22. Zech. 8:16-17
4. Our tongue tells what family we are in
 - a. Truth reflects God as Father - Eph. 4:24-25 (Col 3:9-10). Ps. 15:1-3. 3 Jn. 3-4
 - b. Lies are a family trait of the Devil. John 8:44. Lies are the Devil's language
 - c. Truth is a perfection of Gods family. Lies are a defection in the devil's family

PERJURY

- Ex. 20:16. Rule #9 explicitly addresses the injury of perjury
 - Words can hurt people - Prov. 18:21. Prov. 25:18 - clubs/sword/arrows
 - *"Words of the tongue no physician can heal"* T. Watson
 - Lying is not loving - Prov. 26:28
 - We are not lie against our neighbor, we are to love our neighbor
- Perjury corrupts and destroys society (just like lies ruined Paradise)
 - Testimony in court - *the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*
 - Truth is a must for a just society
 - Ex. 23:1-3, 6-7. Prov. 17:15. Lev. 5:1 - sin of silence
 - Bribery twists the words. Ex. 23:8. (Is. 5:23)
 - False witnesses were given the penalty attached to their slander - Deut. 19:15-21

PERFIDY

- I don't think I have ever used this word in a sentence until this sermon
 - To be *Perfidious* is to be: Treacherous.... Deceitful.... Duplicitous
- The 9th commandment applies outside the courtroom no lying on our lips
 - The truth, whole truth & nothing but the truth should always be on our lips
- There is a crisis of truth in our society.
 - Jer. 9:3-6
 - "Truth is relative" "no absolute truth" "we have our own "truth""
 - SPIN IS OUR SIN
 - Prov. 23:23a if you sell the truth, you will buy the lie Prov. 17:4
 - We are being conditioned to believe lies and perpetuate lies
 - Truth is freeing but lies are enslaving - John 8:32
- Slander Slander = *diabolos*
 - Satan is the slanderer...the accuser...the devil. Lying is his name & nature
 - Lev. 19:16 slander acts against someone's life (lying is not loving)
 - We can slander our enemies/opponents (theologically/politically)
 - Misrepresent them with a "straw man"
 - Demeaning someone and then say that it had no meaning... "*I was only joking*"
 - Prov. 26:18-19 slander hidden in banter
 - Gossip is being a blind witness
 - "*I didn't see it, but I am going to say it. It may or may not be true*"
- Avoid lying at all costs (lying is not loving)
 - Prov. 30:7-8a top of the wise man's prayer list
 - Lying always costs - Prov. 19:5 Rev. 21:8 Rev. 22:15

PINOCCHIO-Y

1. I want to apply this to preachers. Preachers shouldn't be liars
 - a. They should be in the know and not grow pinocchi-noses - Mal 2:7
2. The most dangerous thing I do in my work life is stand behind this pulpit
 - a. The audacity...the temerity...to speak on behalf of God!
 - b. Preachers need to beware lest they slander God as Satan did in the garden
 - i. The sword of Damocles hangs over the preacher head if he gets it wrong
 - c. Mal. 2:17 - our words can weary God when we slander His justice (Rev. 16:7) and put words in His mouth on who He is pleased with
3. 1 Tim. 3:15 - church = pillar & foundation of truth
 - a. We are not to flatter with our words or batter with our word - speak truth in love
 - i. Hunters use animal language to call and kill
 - ii. Peace, peace when there is not peace
4. Jesus was convicted on false testimony, and He came to testify to truth. John 18:37
 - a. Those on the side of truth listen to Him
 - b. Unbelief is calling God a liar - 1 John 5:10 God is no liar or slanderer
 - c. Whose word are you going to believe? There is a slanderer and liar
 - d. Who you believe and what you believe really matters.....for eternity