

Sermon Notes

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen

“No Lying Equals Love of the Truth” – Exodus 20:16

I. Introduction.

A. Review

B. Today – A close look at lying.

1. Time magazine, Michael Horton.

II. Commandment #9

A. Exodus 20:16

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

1. Lying – Ancient world justice system and the need for the truth.
2. Falsehood condemned: Ps. 63:11; 101:7; Pr. 6:16-19; Rev. 22:15

B. Why is God so concerned about truth?

1. Answer: God is the God of T_____, who hates lies.
 - a. John 14:16; Isaiah 65:16
2. Human beings love relativism (Webster’s: The view that ethical truth depends upon the individuals’ or groups’ opinions that hold them.)
 - a. Skewing of the facts comes naturally.
 1. Romans 1:18. Suppress – to hold down.

C. Law of categories.

1. This commandment concerns all forms of falsehood.

III. Differences between classes of lies.

A. Luther followed Augustine in regard to classes of lies.

1. The h_____
2. The h_____
3. The _____

B. Looking at the three:

1. The humorous – a joke.
2. The helpful
 - a. For the benefit of a neighbor
 - b. Rahab’s lie

c. Reformed tradition went further than Luther.

1. Rahab’s action was still a lie, and therefore evil, but a lesser evil than the alternative.

3. The harmful.

- a. It is harmful to distort the facts, so that we are put in the best possible light, while our neighbor is viewed in an unfavorable light.
 1. Reality becomes distorted.

IV. Examples of suppressing the truth.

A. Tale Bearing.

1. Proverbs 18:7-8
2. Slander – Psalm 35:11-16
3. Quotes: Thomas Watson (1600s); Augustine (354-430); Jerome (345-419)
4. Receiving a false report – Psalm 15:1
5. The problem of inconclusive facts.

B. Silence – A lie not corrected, or leaving out pertinent information.

C. Fear – Denying the truth for fear of consequences.

D. Exaggeration.

1. Putting ourselves in a better light than the facts can bear.
2. Buttering up.

E. Lying to God.

1. Sin of the tongue.
2. Ananias/Sapphira – Beware of compartmentalizing.
3. James 3:6-10

F. Look at Jesus’ life.

1. Luke 11:53-54; I Peter 2:21-22

V. Points for Reflection.

A. God is concerned about truth because truthfulness is part of His being.

1. John 14:6
2. Calvin

B. Our lying is most often the result of trying to protect ourselves from the gaze of others, yet God sees us at all times.

C. Honesty may be brutal, but lying can never be condoned when we use it to protect ourselves.

D. We must live countercultural while striving to obey these commands.