

Salt and Light for the King

The 9th Commandment: Lying and Telling the Truth

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Ex 20:16)

- **False Witness** (Ex 23:1-3; Deut 19:18-19)
- **Neighbor** (Lev 19:18; Deut 25:18)
- **Silence** (Lev 5:1; Matt 27:12-14; Isa 53:7; Acts 8:32, 16:37)

Relationship to other commandments (Gen 1:3; Matt 5:33-37; Ex 23:6-9; Lev 19:1)

Definitions

Lying (Prov 14:5; Job 27:4; Ps 5:5; Ps 12:2; 58:3, 63:11, 101:7, 116:11, 144:11; Prov 12:22, Jer 9:3, 5, Acts 5:3-4, Eph 4:25; Col 3:9-10; Rev 21:8; Zech 8:16-19)

Misinformation (Gen 3:3 (2 Cor 11:3); Rom 1:18; 2:8; Gal 2:5, 11-14 3)

Deception (Gen 3:4-5, 7, 14-15; Josh 8:3-8)

Distinguishing Error and Deception

Can we even know the whole truth? (Deut 29:29; Job 38-39)

Can we then ignore the difference between truth and falsehood?

Why is Deception Wrong?

- Image of God (Psa 119:160; Prov 30:5; Num 23:19; Heb 6:18; Tit 1:2; Eph 5:1)
- Satanic Character of Lying (Jn 8:44)
- Risk to trust and integrity (Ps 15:1-2; 51:6; Eph 4:25)
 - Erosion of moral character / Easier to lie in the future
- Damage to relationships (Prov 22:1; Jn 8:49)
- Coercive element in deception
- Dissemination of deception
- Facilitative Effect of Deception (Jn 18:37-38)



Differing Perspectives on Deception

- Deceived – resentment, disappointment, suspicion, reevaluation

- Deceiver - Weigh benefits and harm (Jer 17:9)

Do Some Circumstances Require Deception? (1 Cor 10:13; 1 Jn 2:21; Heb 1:3; Heb 4:15)

- Countering harm / Tragic Moral Choice
- Hostile Government (Ex 1:15-21; Dan 3:16-18; 1 Sam 16:1-5; Matt 10:18-20)
- Spying / Undercover work (Josh 2:1-24; 6: 25; Heb 11:31; Jas 2:25; 2 Sam 15:32-37)
- Concealing your identity (2 Kgs 6:8-23; Gen 42:6-25; 43:19-23)
- Enemies (1 Sam 21:10-15; 1 Kings 22:19-23; 2 Thess 2:7-12; 1 Sam 19:12-17; 1 Sam 20:5-7; 2 Sam 17:17-20; Judges 4:18-21; 5:24-27; Jer 38:24-28; Josh. 8:3-8; 1 Sam. 27:8-12)



Is It Ever Right to Lie?

- Officious lies (avoiding hurt feelings)
- Excuses
- Justification
- Voluntary Deception / Mutual Deceit
- Publicity constraint
- Jocose lies
- Malicious lies

Is it permissible to lie to those who do not deserve the truth? (Grotius)

Lying to enemies (1 Kings 22:19-23; 1 Sam 19:12-17; 1 Sam 20:5-7; 2 Sam 17:17-20; Jer 38:24-28; 1 Sam. 27:8-12)