

“STEALING & LYING” **Exodus 20:15-16**

INTRODUCTION

You Shall Not Steal

The positive side of this commandment is obvious. If we are to refrain from taking what belongs to another, we are also to do everything in our power to prosper others, helping them to attain their full potential. The Lord captures this duty in the Golden Rule: “So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12).

You Shall Not Lie

Our duty toward the other person is only half the picture. It is not only that we harm another individual by false witness or swearing. We also dishonor God by our untruthfulness. He is the God of truth and he hates lying (Is 65:16; Jn 14:6). The Bible tells us, “Behold, thou (God) desirest truth in the inward being” (Ps 51:6). It tells us that the one who is obedient to God “does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right” (1 Cor 13:6). It says, “Let everyone speak the truth with his neighbor” (Eph 4:25).

-James Boice, Foundations of the Christian Faith

This commandment is not only applicable to the law courts. It does include perjury. But it also includes all forms of scandal and slander, all idle talk and tittle-tattle, all lies and deliberate exaggerations or distortions of the truth. We can bear false witness by listening to unkind rumors as well as by passing them on, by making jokes at somebody else's expense, by creating false impressions, by not correcting untrue statements, and by our silence as well as by our speech.

-John Stott, Basic Christianity

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share about a time when were guilty of stealing something or lying to someone.
2. Exodus 20:15 says, “You shall not steal.” In our society today, stealing can take many different forms. Try to list as many different varieties of stealing as you can?
3. Examine the following verses and try to glean some principles about what it means to lie.
 - Hebrews 6:18
 - John 8:44
 - John 14:6
 - John 16:13
 - Proverbs 12:22
 - Proverbs 6:16-19
4. Read John 12: 1-8. Examine the motive behind Judas' words in verse 5. Why was Judas stealing & lying? What was he trying to gain? Discuss what motivates stealing and/or lying in our lives? What are the dangers involved?
5. The ninth commandment calls us to not give false testimony against our neighbor. Is it ever justifiable to tell a lie? Discuss this topic after reading Joshua 2: 1-16.
6. The underlying principle in our study of these commandments is that we are called to seek the highest good of our neighbor. What are some ways in which we can apply the teaching of these two commandments?

