

GOD'S GUARD-RAILS

The 9th Commandment

Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Your Neighbor.

In only nine words, the ninth commandment adds significant weight to all ten of the commandments in Exodus 20, which are the glue that holds a Godly society together when applied to real life. Today we will open God's Word and have 5 questions for us to consider. Each question is meant to be personal. So, don't be praying, "Oh Lord, I hope my husband or I hope my wife is listening this morning. Lord, give them ears to hear!" This morning is a message from God's Word for all of us!

QUESTION #1: WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE 9TH COMMANDMENT?

To "bear false witness" means to tell something which is not true. The Bible emphatically declares that lying is a sin. But the ninth commandments addresses one specific facet of deception—which is the sin of **lying about other people**.

QUESTION #2: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? Luke 10:25-37

The heart of the matter is that a neighbor is **anyone** we encounter who needs our help. And, since everybody needs some kind of help at sometime in their life, it stands to reason that ultimately, anyone and everyone I have any human contact with is my neighbor.

QUESTION #3: HOW IMPORTANT IS THE 9TH COMMANDMENT?

To determine just how important it is not to "bearing false witness against a neighbor", one only has to see some evidence that "bearing false witness" wasn't restricted to the honor of being included in the ten commandments.

In John 8:44, we see that whenever we bear false witness against someone, we are disengaging ourselves from imitating the character of God and aligning ourselves with Satan, the enemy of God, who God says is "a liar and the father of lies."

QUESTION #4: HOW MANY WAYS ARE THERE TO BREAK THE 9TH COMMANDMENT?

- In courts of law (Matthew 26:59-68)
- A direct or an indirect lie.
- Silence
- Gossip (Proverbs 26:20; Leviticus 19:16; Exodus 23:1)

QUESTION #5: WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE GIVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION TO BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST SOMEONE?

- Recognize the real enemy (Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44)
- Believe God wants you to confess the sin, and He wants to forgive you (Romans 10:9)
- Believe God will move you forward to overcome the temptation and live in victory (I Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13)
- Give thanks because God is incapable of lying or bearing false witness against YOU! (Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:18)