

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor... Exodus 20v16

Definition of a lie: To tell an untruth; pretend with intent to deceive; a statement that deviates from or perverts the truth

Why this Law?

1. The Law exists because God exists. The law is not separate from God's character.
 - Revelations refers to Christ as Just and True.
 - God personally hates lies (in Rev 21 we see liars listed with those who are cast into the lake of fire).
 - God can be trusted (e.g. Can you trust a compulsive liar?)
 - God is a God of reality and truth. Lies alter our perception of reality. Truth draws us nearer to God.
2. For our benefit. John 12 v 50- Jesus says the commandments leads to eternal life.

Father of Lies and his Children

The devil knowing full well that truth leads to eternal life is bent on lying to us all our lives. Wasn't it the devils false testimony about God that led to the fall of man?

He's still repeating lies against God in **films** (year 1), in **education** (evolution), in **music** (Robbie Williams/Mike Skinner), in **books** (god delusion), in **culture, on News** (Jade's cervical cancer) in **our minds** he whispers wicked thoughts that go against God's commands. Through **our experiences** (e.g. through abusive father makes someone think the heavenly father is abusive. / E.g. sexual abuse at young age making boy think he's gay.)

One of the prevailing lies is that there is no absolute truth to be found (we are to continually seek, as though finding is not the aim. There is still a journey of exploration once you've found truth)

Children of God must be children of truth. Truth is so needed today, in a cluster of ruthless lies. Yes it may bring persecution, but eyes will be opened, and souls will be liberated and saved by our intersection (e.g. transsexual in Dalston who believed it was more fun to be a woman and was about to do an irreversible operation).

-“I believe the devils persuasion to the believer to live a decent **average life** is one of his successful biggest lies”.

- **When we lie or give false testimony we are partaking in the devils ministry.**

WARNINGS! Concerning false prophets

Lying from the Pulpit

2 Cor 11v 13-15. 13For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Haven been a liar since the beginning the devil knows all about lying, he's very aware of the best ways to market his lies. The devils choice place to lie from is in God's temple. This has been his desire since the beginning.

Why the pulpit?

1. It's the place where we should expect God's undiluted truth. There's no better place to pervert truth.
2. The platform itself gives credibility to the lie. And subtle lies are more readily accepted.
3. The world is living a lie anyway, the devil desires to corrupt God's children. (his choice target audience attend church)

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? 6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of *Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 *For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

*The skilful liar is like a magician, he doesn't only lie in words but also in actions and gestures. The devil lies with our reality. We must speak God's truth into our situations.

***2 Tim 4v3.** For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Prostitute and pervert relationship. Prostitutes, as despised as they are, exist because of the demand for them.

If we don't love truth we will receive lies. E.g. Girl who gets upset when you tell the truth about if she looks fat in her dress, is unlikely to receive truth from her partner... (are we open to the receiving of truth). *A false prophet can kill you with compliments.*

Before we go false prophet hunting its important to understand that a sincere believer who decides to walk by the flesh instead of the Spirit even for a moment can play the role of a false prophet, though he is not all together a false prophet. E.g. Peter after speaking God's revelation, was used by the devil to speak against God's purposes.

What is Truth?

Truth is an eternal pillar and foundation through which we come to know who we are and where we stand. Truth can be seen from all angles and perspective, it's open to inspection, it has nothing to hide. Truth is light.

Truth is not only a statement of fact but also a person. Christ refers to himself as "the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6).

In John we see the group of religious leaders who had not held to truth but had developed their system of thought and called it truth. They studied the ink on paper without meeting the person of truth, and when the embodiment of truth came to them they did not recognize him. (how do you study the word? Is it to gain knowledge or to encounter God?)

John 8v31-47

The Children of Abraham

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, **If you hold to my teaching**, you are really my disciples. **32** Then you will know the truth, and the **truth will set you free**. **33** They answered him, We are Abraham's descendants and have **never been slaves** of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free? **34** Jesus replied, I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. **35** Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever. **36** So **if the Son sets you free**, you will be free indeed. **37** I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have **no room** for my word. **38** I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father. **39** Abraham is our father, they answered. If you were Abraham's children, said Jesus, then you would do the things Abraham did. **40** **As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God**. Abraham did not do such things. **41** You are doing the things your own father does. We are not illegitimate children, they protested. The only Father we have is God himself.

The Children of the Devil

42 Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. **43** **Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say**. **44** You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **45** Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! **46** Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? **47** He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.

The Person of truth is Christ, to hold to his teaching we must study them and treasure them. The reveller and un-folder of truth is the Holy Spirit.

Truth can be approached from any angle (it is open to inspection and scrutiny), it is an eternally unshakable pillar. It is from truth we understand what is. We understand where we are in context to the location of truth, without truth we walk with our own laws and standards. Let us not fall into the same mistake of the Pharisees and make up 'truths' to suit ourselves.

Isaiah 50v10-11

10 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. **11** But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

If we are not in the right place in our walk with God it is because we have bought into some lie along the way.

Prayer point:

Let us repent for any false testimony we have propagated

Let us pray that God reveals to us any lies we have bought into

Let us pray for the spirit of revelation and wisdom to further understand God's truths and to allow them to shape our reality