

## BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

### C9: Truthfulness (Exodus 20:16)

May 7, 2024

#### Preliminary

##### The Duties Required in the Ninth Commandment

Note: To guard the reputation of our neighbor's good name; to uphold justice in our interaction with one another; and to use our tongues for speaking the truth in general.

Message: *Keep the truth in our dealings with others, and keep our tongue from damaging anyone's reputation*

#### 1. Love guards each other's reputation

Note: The first and most obvious aspect of this commandment is the obligation it lays upon us to safeguard the reputation of our neighbor.

Point: We are to love our neighbor as ourselves...bearing false witness is a devilish sin

##### The sins that violate this commandment

##### (a) The sin of slander...

Definition: To slander is to report any lying or exaggerated testimony against anyone in *any* context... Ex 23:1; Ps 101:5; Pro 10:18

Note: Slander is a deadly sin

Mt 11:19 = Christ was accused of being gluttonous and a drunkard

Luke 7:24 = Christ was slandered by those who said he was the friend of sinners

Point: Slander is a sin that brought Jesus to death

➤ Slander can kill or otherwise destroys a person's reputation

##### (b) The sin of gossiping

Definition: Spreading of negative information unnecessarily about your neighbor - even if it's true.

Note: Telling someone negative information about your neighbor with the aim of being hurtful rather than helpful is a violation of this command

Texts: Lev 19:16; Pro 11:13

Warning: To have the tongue of a gossip shows that we secretly delight in our neighbor's faults...

➤ We sin by making our neighbor despicable in the eyes of other men

##### (c) The evil of twisting someone else's words to mean something other than what the speaker intended.

Meaning: If you recount what someone else has said, but change (misconstrue) the meaning by omitting their words that misrepresents what the speaker meant

Warning: This is the same behavior of Satan... Mt 4:6 quoting Ps 91:11-12

##### (d) The sin of flattery

Definition: The act of giving excessive compliments, generally for the purpose of ingratiating oneself with the subject.

Point: The flatterer hopes to gain approval or advantage over the one being flattered.

➤ It deliberately crush others with hateful lies... Pro 26:28

➤ It is always done with selfish, self-aggrandizing motives, therefore it is a sin against the one who is being flattered

Model: Jesus spoke the truth whether it was popular or not. He refused to compromise the Word, even when great multitudes left Him... Jn 6:66

#### 2. The Integrity that guards to preserve the truth

Note: When you deliberately damage another person's reputation, you are doing more harm to him than anything else you could do, short of causing him to defile his conscience

Remember: Our neighbor's good name is valuable than all his material possessions, so if you take his good name from him, you have committed a far worse sin against him than if you stole all his other possessions... Ecc 7:1; Pro 22:1

Point: If the good name of other is so important, it is also our duty to protect our own good name.

Ephesians 4:29 = *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

#### 3. The Truth and the Lies

Note: All forms of lying are forbidden because lying is inimical to who God is

➤ Our Father is a God of Truth... Titus 1:2 = *God, who cannot lie*... cf. 1 Jn 2:21

➤ The God Holy Spirit called '*the Spirit of Truth*' – Jn 15:26; 5:7

➤ Jesus Christ is the 'Truth'... Jn 14:6

Point: Truth is essential to the whole idea of the Godhead

Contrast: Satan is a liar and the father of lies... Jn 8:44

➤ All liars shall have their judgment... Rev 21:8

➤ Lying is the epitome of all wickedness

[WLC, Q#144]: What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?

Answer: The duties required in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man, and the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own; appearing and standing for the truth; and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice, and in all other things whatsoever; a charitable esteem of our neighbors; loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name; sorrowing for and covering of their infirmities; freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces, defending their innocence; a ready receiving of a good report, and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them; discouraging talebearers, flatterers, and slanderers; love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requireth; keeping of lawful promises; studying and practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.

***We should mean what we say,  
ensuring that our speech is both direct and clear and in truth...***