

c. We A _____ ourselves with our Words.

Matt. 15:18-20

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

James 3:6-9

And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

3. How does God want us to speak?

Speak the T _____ motivated by L _____.

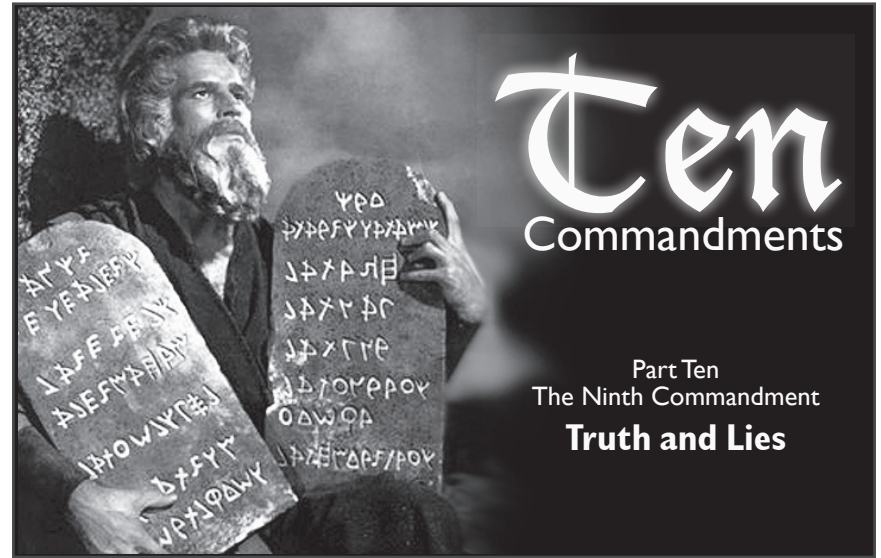
Lev. 19:17-18 “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

Ephesians 4: 13-16

...we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Commentaries and resources used in preparation of this message: The Message of Leviticus, by J.A. Motyer; The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, Leviticus by G.J Wenham; The Ten Commandments, by Dr. Laura Schlessinger and Rabbi Stewart Vogel; several sermons delivered by Timothy Keller on the ten commandments.

Next Sunday, July 4, 2010: **Ten Commandments Part II The Tenth Command - “You shall not covet”**
Travis Marsh, speaking



How to Obey the Ninth Commandment:

Exodus 20:16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Lev. 19:9-18

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

¹¹ “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹² You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

leave them for the poor - Widows, orphans and aliens seldom had land. They needed to labor to get food. But the law God provides some free food that they can gather - it's the grain and grapes left by the more affluent in the field for the poor. This food left behind is a thanksgiving offering from the affluent to God. Ruth 2 demonstrates this practice. **I am the Lord your God** - This motive clause is written here, as well as in verses 14, 16 and 18. These commands regarding how we treat our neighbors not only come from the Lord, but are a reflection of His nature. Not only does He want us to act like He would act - God wants us to be holy like Him. **not steal... deal falsely; you shall not lie** - This section is about integrity and honesty as we deal with “one another”. The eighth ninth and fourth commandments are referenced. **swear by my name falsely and so profane** - We profane God when we invoke His name as a means of covering up or deceiving others. God detests “a lying tongue” and “a false witness who pours out lies” (Prov. 6:17).

¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

¹⁵“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

oppress your neighbor or rob him - This next section addresses the exploitation of our neighbor and specifically focuses on those who are the weakest: employees or the disabled.

The wages of a hired servant - Deut. 24:15 helps us understand how not paying a day laborer at the end of the day could be exploitative - the laborer was probably poor and needed that money for food immediately. Those who hired had a responsibility to treat their employees with respect and dignity.

curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind - Obviously some, having no fear of the disabled person's ability to gain justice, abused them. Here God is clearly telling them that they had better fear Him because He sees their exploitative behavior and hates it.

injustice in court - The next two verse section has justice as its focus. God commands that all witnesses, antagonists and judges must seek truth and to do justice.

not be partial to the poor... great - Sometimes the members of the court show partiality - sometimes to the rich and powerful, sometimes to the poor. But true justice does not permit partiality to distort or influence what is right.

go around as a slanderer - Those who vent their anger or who enjoy stirring up dissension go around spreading gossip. They accuse others but not before judges and witnesses where their words would be examined. God will be the ultimate judge over all the affairs of men.

You shall not hate your brother - The last two verse section address our hearts. Rather than hate and follow that heart motive to eventual sins like vengeance and grudge keeping, we are to love.

reason frankly with your neighbor - “It is as difficult to administer reproof with delicacy and tact, as it is to receive reproof.” God calls us (throughout scripture) to go beyond anger to reasonable, adult, conversation that has the goal of reconciliation. (see Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1; Titus 3:1-11)

you shall love your neighbor as yourself - The conclusion when it comes to how we interact and behave toward others - we are to seek their good just as we seek our own.

1. According to Jesus, you are always under O _____ : There are no levels or gradations of honesty.

Matt. 5:33-37

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

2. [We humans have words and] Our Words C _____

a. God R _____ all of them = consequences.

Matt. 12:33-36

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. ³⁶I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

James 3:1-2

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

Proverbs 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

b. Others are E _____ by our Words = exploitation

Exodus 20:16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Lev. 19:11-12; 16 “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people,...

Proverbs 12:17-19

Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. ¹⁸There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. ¹⁹Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.