

WRITTEN IN STONE

TO TELL THE TRUTH

Exodus 20:16 Jeff Schreve

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:16

What is the big deal about lying and bearing false witness?

1. Bearing false witness is an abomination to God.

*There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, **A false witness who utters lies**, And one who spreads strife among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19*

A. The Lord is the God of truth.

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth. Exodus 34:6

B. The devil is the father of lies.

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.” John 8:44

2. Bearing false witness is destructive to any society.

It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, For a throne is established on righteousness. Righteous lips are the delight of kings, And he who speaks right is loved. Proverbs 16:12-13

A. Truth is foundational for a society to flourish.

B. Truth is critical to maintain law and order, not chaos.

“On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.” Deuteronomy 17:6-7

3. Bearing false witness is a violation of the second greatest commandment.

For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another. Galatians 5:14-15

- A. We are called to speak the truth in love.
- B. We are called to watch what comes out of our mouths.
Don't spread harmful rumors or help a criminal by giving false evidence. Exodus 23:1 CEV
- C. We are called to be His witnesses and walk in the light.
And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:5-7

Are you walking in truth and light?