

The 10 Commandments: Do Not Bear False Witness

Reflect

1. Have you ever had someone spread rumors about you? What happened?
2. Have you ever been responsible for starting a rumor?
3. What would the world be like if we all believed the best about each other?

Read Your Bible

- Deuteronomy 5:20
- John 8:44-47

44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. 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 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What does "bear false witness" mean in your own words?
2. What are some situations where we are tempted to bear false witness?
3. How can we bear witness to the truth?
4. What do you think the devil is called the "father of lies?"
5. What are some lies the devil uses to tempt you?
6. How do you resist the devil's lies and hold fast to God's truth?

Conclusion

In Luther's Small Catechism, the reformer wrote, "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray, or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light." Luther's enemies slandered him, calling him a "wild boar" and spreading false rumors behind his back. Jesus' enemies slandered him also, even calling for him to be crucified! Yet, Jesus saw everyone in the best possible light. Even though he spoke harshly to the Pharisees, he never spoke dishonestly about them. Instead, He died for them—defeating the devil, the father of lies, and welcoming all people to the Truth through His outstretched arms on the cross.

Pray

Lord Jesus, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Thank you for coming to our defense upon the cross. Help us not to tell lies about our neighbors, slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, help us to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light. Help us to love our neighbors as you love us. In Jesus' name. Amen!