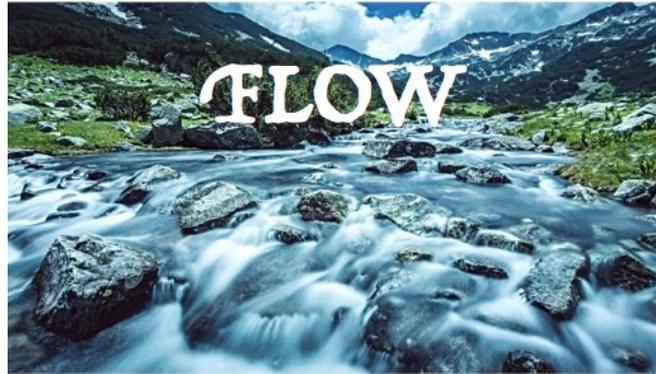


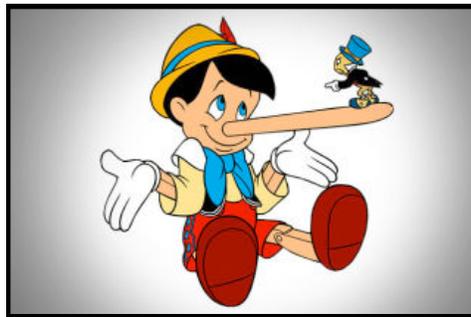
#29 April 10, 2017



You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
Exodus 20:16

Telling the Truth in Love

by Kylie Thalhofer



Watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nty8-l8r4Wl>

When I think of the 9th commandment, I am reminded of the early years of my secular American childhood. There are certain morals that stuck with me from that time: don't lie, don't steal, and don't call your sister mean names, to name a few. It seems that, like the adorable little kid in the video, we often learn these lessons early in

our American culture. However again like the kid in the video, I think our understanding begins at a level that may seem silly or immature. For me, these morals were just a standard of living that didn't hold much weight; they were rules without roots.

As we grow, and as we move toward Christ, our morals become stronger, deeper, and more firmly rooted in God. My personal understanding of this 9th commandment has changed significantly as I've grown in my relationship with Christ. The question of "why" I hold myself to certain standards is clear: because these are the standards put in place by the Creator of the Universe (*whoa*). Also "how" to live out these standards is based on Christ: joyfully, with love.

Today, as you think about honesty and what it means to *tell the truth in love*, consider how your understanding of this commandment has changed over the years.

Questions:

Is there any area of your life that may be tainted by deceit?

What selfish ambitions are behind dishonest actions or even temptations?

Why is dishonesty appealing in those situations?

What does it mean to tell the truth *in love*?

Pray:

Confess any areas of your life where deceit plays a part, and ask the Lord for forgiveness. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit so you may be empowered to turn from selfish ambition toward Christ-likeness. Ask God to give you his courage to speak honestly, his words to share the truth of the gospel with those around you, and his voice to speak in a loving manner.

"For, 'Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.'"

1 Peter 3:10-12 (Psalm 34:12-16)