

“Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness” *Ex. 20:16*

Open:

- What does it mean to bear false witness?
 - According to **Ex. 23:1**, it means to raise a false report or to act wickedly by being an unrighteous witness.
 - According to **Lev.19:16**, it means to allow one’s social status to dictate the response of justice.
 - According to **Prov. 6:19**, it is in reference to one who speaks lies and sows the seed of discord.
 - According to *Websters Dictionary*, one who lies under oath, one who publishes false information, or one who twists/ manipulates facts or truth for personal gain.
- What does the Bible say about those who bear false witness?
 - Show your students that gossip, criticism, slander, being a busybody or a talebearer, and backbiting are all directly related to bearing false witness.
 - In **Ps. 12:3** and **Ps.101:5**, God tells us that those who slander will be cut off.
 - In **Prov. 6:12-15**, God tells that those who walk with a froward mouth will be broken without remedy.
 - In **Prov. 19:5**, God tells us that a false witness will not escape punishment.
 - In **Prov. 19:9**, God tells us that a false witness will perish.
 - In **Proverbs 25:18**, God tells us that a false witness is a maul, a sword, and a sharp arrow.
 - In **Rom. 1:30**, God tells us that backbiters will see God’s hand of protection removed from their life and will suffer the full consequence of their sin.

Tran:

- God leaves no room for man to justify his negativity, gossip, slandering, or backbiting.
- God expects His creation to treat each other as He treats them with love, justice, and kindness.
- Anyone who lives as a busybody or gossip will experience the judgment of God on their life.

➤ Spend as much time as you can having your class look at the verses. This will reinforce in their mind the importance and severity of this commandment.

I. You need to recognize the natural tendency of your tongue to be negative.

A. No one naturally has a well-spoken mouth. **Rom. 3:12-14** *“They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. [13] Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: [14] Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:”*

- **Ps. 52:1-5**

B. You must decide to control you tongue or your tongue will control you. **Job. 27:3-4** *“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils; [4] My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit”*

II. God's people are not to be false witnesses.

- **Prov. 25:8-11**

A. God is very clear on this commandment. Christians are not to have any part of gossip, criticism, or evil communication. **Lev. 19:16** *“Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.”*

- **Ps. 34:13** *“Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.”*

B. As children of God, we are to live contrary to the natural tendencies of man. We are to have a mouth that speaks the truth and not evil. **Prov. 4:24** *“Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.”*

III. God intended for people to keep their noses out of other people's lives.

A. It is important to recognize that if we have time to sit around and criticize the lives of people around us, then we are probably lazy. God puts a gossip and a lazy person in the same category. **II Thess. 3:10-12** *“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. [11] For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. [12] Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”*

B. Paul instructs Timothy about the importance of teaching Christians the importance of keeping their nose out of other people's business. **I Tim. 5:13** *“And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”*

C. We are to focus on our own lives and make sure that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing, not spending our time in other people's business. **I Thess. 4:11** *“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;”*

D. We are not to spend our life judging the actions of others by an appearance. We are to compare actions to the bible definition of right and wrong. **John 7:24** *“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”*

IV. God intended for there to be certain confidentiality between one another.

A. God does not expect for man to hide the sins of another; but if a person confides in you, then you need to respect that confidentiality.

- i. **Prov. 11:12-13** *“He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace. [13] A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.”*

- ii. **Prov. 25:19** *“Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.”*

B. Before you open your mouth, you need to think about what you're going to say and how it will affect the life of someone else. **Prov. 18:8** *“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”*

- Words have a lasting effect on people. **James 3:6** *“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”*

V. It takes two to gossip. Do not be a part of, and do not allow others, to be a false witness.

- A. Don't spend your time around those who are prone to gossip. **Prov. 20:19** *"He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."*
- B. Allow how you carry yourself and your demeanor in life to drive away the gossip. **Prov. 25:23** *"The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue."*

VI. We are not to be false witnesses with our lives.

- A. As children of God, we are ambassadors to the world. What kind of representation of Christ are you being to the world, by the words you speak? **II Cor. 5:20a** *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..."*
- B. The Bible is very clear that anyone who can not control his tongue, "his religion is in vain."
James 1:26 *"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."*
- C. You cannot be the Christian God wants you to be if you are living a double standard with your tongue.
James 3:9-12 *"Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. [10] Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. [11] Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? [12] Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh."*

Close: Ps. 37:30 *"The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment."*

- Decide you will speak only the things that God wants you to speak.
- Choose not to live your life as a false witness.
- Do not live your life being an improper picture of who Christ is.

The 10 Commandments

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| 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. | 6. Thou shalt not kill. |
| 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. |
| 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. | 8. Thou shalt not steal. |
| 4. Remember the Sabbath. | 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness. |
| 5. Honour thy father and thy mother. | 10. Thou shalt not covet. |