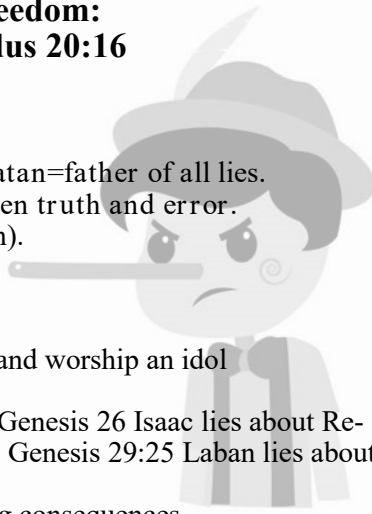


Boundaries of Freedom: False Witness Exodus 20:16



1. Wickedness of falsehood

A. It opposes God.

Num. 23:19 God does not lie vs **Jn 8:44** Satan=father of all lies.

Eph. 6 Spiritual warfare is a battle between truth and error.

John 8:32 God's truth sets us free (from sin).

John 17:17 we are sanctified in truth.

B. It's a lack of faith.

Daniel 3:17-18 Daniel's friends would not lie, and worship an idol

We lie when we lack faith in God's outcomes: Genesis 26 Isaac lies about Rebekah, Genesis 27, Jacob lies to get a birthright. Genesis 29:25 Laban lies about Leah. Saul lied about Agag.

Why they all lied: A lack of faith in God, fearing consequences.

Rom. 1:17-18 Righteous live by faith, unrighteous suppress truth.

Proverbs 6:17 Lying lips are an abomination to God.

C. It destroys man.

Proverbs 25:18 a false witness is a war club, sword and arrow.

Proverbs 12:18 Rash words are like sword thrusts

James 3:9-10 Christians do not bless God and curse man.

2. Weapons of falsehood

A. A False witness in court.

Exodus 20:16 A false witness specifically speaks to a courtroom.

Deuteronomy 19:15 The court system depends on 2-3 witnesses.

Mt 25:59 The Pharisees bore false witness against Christ.

As with adultery and murder, one must broaden this command as is demonstrated in the Westminster Longer Catechism.

B. Bearing False witness to others

How many examples of lying in the Bible can you remember?

Exodus 32:24, "I threw [gold] into the fire, and out came this calf."

We often portray ourselves falsely...just like Satan (**2 Cor 11:14**).

From calling in "sick" to pastors concealing truth (**2 Tim. 4:3-4**), we are all tempted to lie.

All assumptions are LIES until they are confirmed. Sharing them is bearing false witness. "I just know he mean to..."

C. Cheating

Cheating is when you present work as if it's yours.

Lev. 19:11, "You shall not steal...deal falsely...lie to one another."
Using AI to write papers is dishonest, and it hurts the student.

D. Deception

Selective sharing of truth which leads someone to believe a lie.

Ex: **Genesis 12** Abraham and Sarah

Rev. 12:9 Satan is "the deceiver of the whole world"

Mt 24:24 Deceiving is what false prophets did

E. Exaggeration

Exaggeration amplifies a truth into a lie.

Numbers 13:33 10 spies exaggerate "like grasshoppers"

F. Flattery

Oxford: "Insincere praise, given to further one's own interests."

Compliment: Encouraging a specific godly trait. **Ruth 2:11-12**

Psalms 12:2 Flattery is associated with lies.

G. Gender

Transgenderism is a lie that we demand others believe.

It lies against our God-given biology (**Genesis 5:2**).

The most loving you can be is to tell someone the truth.

Prov. 24:24-25 Telling the wicked "you are right" will be cursed.

H. Helpful lies

What about Rahab (Jas 2:25) or Egypt's midwives (Exodus 1:21)?

Q: Are there exceptions (1 Pet 2:13 vs Acts 5:29)?

What if honesty violates the command to love my neighbor?

Q: Or is it always a sin to lie? (How about hiding Jews in WW2?)

3. Way out of Falsehood

Eph. 4:25, "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

A. **Stop Lying** Therefore, having put away falsehood.

B. **Speak the truth** let each one of you speak the truth

Ephesians 4:15 "speak the truth in love."

C. **Lying hurts us all** for we are members one of another."

West Point:

"A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do."

