

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Truth or Consequences

SERMON REFERENCE: Exodus 20:16

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1863

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The commandment we study today is, *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”*
 - i) Exodus 20:16
- b) We live in a society where moral absolutes are vanishing.
 - i) This is true not primarily with the older generation, but with the younger generation.
- c) In a 20-year span, we saw the reversal of almost 200 years of American history and values.
 - i) In 1962, the Supreme Court ruled school prayer unconstitutional.
 - ii) In 1963, the Supreme Court ruled that Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.
 - iii) In 1980, the Supreme Court ruled that posting the Ten Commandments in public schools was unconstitutional.
 - iv) In 1982 when the Supreme Court ruled that creationism could no longer be taught in public schools.
 - v) As a result, children can get contraceptives and sexual counseling at school without parental consent.
- d) Many schools now teach a “values-free” education.
 - i) Suicide has increased among teens.
 - ii) Teenage pregnancy has risen as a result of teenage promiscuity.
- e) America has lost the concept of absolute God-given truth.
 - i) A 1990’s study determined that America suffers from an alarming decline in basic honesty.
 - ii) A 1991 ethics study found:
 - (1) 13% of the population believe in all of the biblical Ten Commandments.
 - (2) 90% lie regularly.
 - (3) 20% of our youth lost their virginity by age 13.
 - (4) 7% said they would kill a stranger for 10 million dollars.
- f) We are drowning in a sea of facts and knowledge, but little truth.
 - i) We have produced more information in the last 30 years than in the previous 5,000 years.
 - ii) A person who reads one major newspaper today gains more information in that one newspaper than people who lived in the 16th Century might learn in one year.
 - (1) These are facts; facts are no substitute for truth.
- g) Isaiah 59:14
 - i) This passage pictures a traffic jam where equity, justice and judgment cannot get through because truth has fallen.
 - (1) Truth has been kicked down by professors of philosophy.
 - (2) Truth has been tripped up by dishonest politicians.
 - (3) Truth has been chloroformed by liberal preachers.
- h) Our job as believers in Christ is to set truth back on her feet.

2) THE LIABILITY OF A FALSE WITNESS

- a) Satan himself is the father of all false witness.
 - i) John 8:44
- b) Every time you tell a lie, you are acting like the devil.
 - i) The word “devil” means “slanderer.”
 - ii) Every time you tell the truth, you are acting like the Lord Jesus.
- c) Satan used slander to corrupt Adam.
 - i) Genesis 2:17
 - ii) Genesis 3:4-5
 - iii) Satan slandered the character of God.
 - (1) He slandered God’s honesty.
 - (a) Satan made God out to be a liar.
 - (b) Anyone who puts a question mark after the Word of God is doing the work of the devil.
 - (2) Satan slandered God’s goodness.
 - (a) He claimed God did not really care about Adam and Eve.
- d) Satan used slander and false witness to criticize Job, a godly man.
 - i) Job 1:6-12
 - (1) Satan appears before the throne of God and begins to slander Job.
 - (a) Job was an upright man who loved God.
 - (2) Satan claims the only reason Job serves God is because God has bribed him.
- e) Satan used slander to accuse the Lord Jesus.
 - i) In the wilderness, Satan used accusations and temptations to slander the Lord Jesus.
 - (1) Matthew 4:1-11
 - ii) Satan continues to bear false witness against the Lord Jesus today.
 - (1) Matthew 26:59
- f) Anytime we slander someone, we are acting like Satan.
- g) Satan is the father of slander and these are his offspring:
 - i) The perjurer
 - (1) Exodus 23:1-2
 - (2) To commit perjury in a court of law breaks this commandment in Exodus 20:16.
 - (3) We will one day stand in God’s courtroom.
 - ii) The rumor monger
 - (1) The Bible clearly forbids the spreading of rumors.
 - (a) Exodus 23:1
 - iii) The flatterer
 - (1) Proverbs 26:28
 - (2) This is not referring to giving encouragement, honor or thanks.
 - (3) Flattery is a way of using people.
 - (4) Psalm 55:21

- (5) The flatterer will say to your face what he will not say behind your back while the hypocrite will say behind your back what he will not say to your face.
 - iv) The whisperer
 - (1) We can break this commandment by mere insinuation.
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 12:20
 - (3) The Pharisees insinuated that Jesus Christ was an illegitimate child.
 - (a) Acts 8:41
 - (4) We can bear false witness through insinuation just by the tone of our voice or facial expressions.
 - v) The slanderer
 - (1) James 4:11
 - (a) Whether the information is true or false, we are not to speak with an evil spirit.
 - (2) Jeremiah 18:18
 - (a) *"Smiting with the tongue."*
 - (3) When we listen to slander, we are just as guilty as the one who speaks it.
 - (4) We can even break the spirit of this commandment by simply remaining silent when we hear slanderous statements or when someone is falsely criticized.
 - (a) We must bear true witness.
 - (b) If we remain quiet when we ought to speak up, then we have sinned.
 - (c) Leviticus 5:1
 - (i) Saying, "It is none of my business" and remaining silent when a criminal deed is done or a good man is criticized, is breaking the spirit of this command.
 - h) Proverbs 6:16-19
 - i) Of the seven things that God hates, two of them deal with bearing false witness.
 - i) One of the more hurtful and foolish things we can do is to bear false witness.
 - j) The practice of lying is no small sin.
 - i) The devil is the father of lies.
 - ii) Matthew 25:41
 - (1) The word "angel" means "messenger" or "witness."
 - (2) Do not become Satan's witness.
 - iii) Revelation 21:8
- 3) THE RELIABILITY OF A FAITHFUL WITNESS
- a) When God commands us to not bear false witness, by implication He is saying that we shall bear faithful witness.
 - b) Jesus Christ is called the faithful and true witness of God.
 - i) We are to be witnesses to Jesus.

- ii) Acts 1:8
- c) Our homes ought to bear witness to the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d) When the Bible says, "*The faith went from house to house*" it means that one family becomes a witness to another family.
 - i) We are not to bear false witness against our neighbor, we are to bear faithful witness to our neighbor.
 - ii) A witness simply shares what he has seen or heard.
 - iii) Jesus does not call us to be His lawyers; to argue a case.
- e) As a witness, you simply tell people what Jesus has done for you and how you know He has done it.
- f) Do not witness about things you do not know; witness about the things you do know.
 - i) Failure is a part of your witness.

4) THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A FAMILY WITNESS

- a) There is a desperate need in America today for families that know the truth, believe the truth, love the truth, teach the truth, speak the truth and share the truth..
- b) A home that is not built on truth will crumble.
- c) How do we teach our children these truths?
 - i) By precept.
 - (1) Take the Word of God and teach children the Scriptures that deal with lying and bearing false witness.
 - (2) When a child lies, give them the Biblical, theological reason why we should tell the truth.
 - (3) Make sure children understand the holy commandments.
 - (4) Teach the Scriptures.
 - ii) By example.
 - (1) As parents, especially as fathers, we must tell the truth.
 - (2) Parents who fail to tell the truth are leading the home on the road to disaster.
 - (3) If you have ever failed to keep a promise to your child, then confess that and ask that child for forgiveness.
 - iii) By discipline.
 - (1) Little children need to understand that the following behaviors are not allowed:
 - (a) Deliberate disobedience
 - (b) Defiant disrespect
 - (c) Dishonesty

5) CONCLUSION

- a) We need to take the Ten Commandments and teach them to our children one at a time, beginning with the first commandment in Exodus 20:2-3.

- b) A home can only win when it is founded upon Jesus Christ.
- c) John 14:6
- d) What does it mean to be saved?
 - i) It means that every sin is forgiven.
 - ii) It means that every dishonest thing you've ever done is buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness never again to be brought against you.
 - iii) It means that the Holy Spirit lives within you and helps you to live the truth.
 - iv) It means that you have the joy of God and His peace.
 - v) It means that you have a home in Heaven.
 - vi) It means that you have millions of people around the world who are now your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16