

**Ninth Word: There is no godliness without truthfulness**  
**(Exod 20.16; 09-06-20am)**

**Main Idea:** To understand the harm of the lie, one must embrace the importance of the truth

**I. A biblical understanding about truth** (Titus 1.2; cf. Num 23.19; 1 Jn 1.5)

A. Truth and God: all truth is God's truth (Jn 14.6; Jn 17.17)

B. Truth and the gospel: power in the gospel is driven by the truth of the gospel (1 Cor 15.3-4; 1 Tim 3.16)

C. Truth and the church: truth is a hallmark of the church (Prov 6.16-19; Eph 4.25; 1 Jn 2.3-5)

**II. Is lying ever justified?** (cf. Ex 1 (Moses); Josh 2 (Rahab); 1 Sam 16 (Samuel); 1 Ki 22 (prophets))

General observations:

1) Biblical accounts are historical (narrative), not instructive, nor do they set norm for Christian behavior

They are true accounts, but must read them & think about them in context of surrounding narrative

2) Purposes of God seemed to superintend or govern the decisions to deceive (Samuel & 1<sup>st</sup> Kings)

3) Fear of God seemed to motivate the actions of some to deceive (Rahab & midwives in Egypt)

4) Faith and serving God seemed to be message behind those who commended Rahab (Heb 11, Js 2)

These are very difficult questions; we must be humble and genuine in how we treat them

How should we think when we face situations when lie would seemingly be less offensive/more diplomatic?

God's desire is for us to be faithful and true to Him

A lie is never the 1<sup>st</sup> or best option

You will be judged for every spoken word

Lies deceive, diminish trust, dull your conscience and destroy souls

There is no godliness w/o truthfulness

**III. Developing effective defenses against lying**

1. Build up a fortress of truth

2. Don't ignore your conscience

3. Avoid known "danger" zones

Gossip – Rumors – Exaggeration – Slander - Promises

4. Pray to avoid tempting situations