

The 9th Commandment Exodus 20:16

Various translations say it differently,

But in the end, it all comes back to one simple command.

Exodus 20:16 (TLB)

Lying is epidemic in American culture. -- We see it everywhere.

Is it possible to be consistently honest in a dishonest world?

God will enable us to live the life He has called us to live.

How can we live a life of honesty?

I. BY TELLING THE COMPLETE TRUTH.

Even society recognizes this truth.

The oath of a witness in the Court of Law.

II. BY TELLING THE TRUTH CONSISTENTLY. Ephesians 4:15

Honesty is to be a lifestyle. It is about being like Christ.

Honesty has to be consistent if we are to be like Christ. Proverbs 11:3

III. BY TELLING THE TRUTH LOVINGLY. Ephesians 4:15

Speak the truth in a spirit of love.

People perceive truth without love as an attack.

The key to speaking the truth in a spirit of love has to do with motivation.

If I'm doing it for their benefit, then that's speaking the truth in love.

IV. BY TELLING THE TRUTH TACTFULLY. Proverbs 12:18

Contemplate before you communicate.

Put your mind in gear before you put your mouth in gear. Matthew 12:34b (NIV)

The real problem in all of this is not our mouth.

The real problem is our heart. Matthew 15:19 (NLT)

V. DISHONESTY IS A SYMPTOM OF A DEEPER PROBLEM

1. Resentment:

Sometimes people lie out of hatred, spite, or to get revenge.

2. Fear:

Sometimes people lie in an attempt to escape consequences.

3. Insecurity:

Sometimes people lie in an attempt to cover up low self-esteem.

4. Selfishness:

Sometimes people lie to get what they want when they want it.

Psalm 34:12-13 (TEV)

VI. LYING IS A MATTER OF THE HEART.

The good news is that Jesus specializes in heart transplants.

The closer you get to Jesus Christ the more:

you're going to love the truth, speak the truth, and live the truth.

Admit it:

Sometimes I lie. Sometimes I exaggerate. Sometimes I tell half-truths.

Ask Christ to forgive you and give you the power to change.

Ask Him to cleanse and purify your heart. **1 John 1:9 (NLT)**

Will you give Christ full control of your heart.