

Don't Lie - Don't Covet - Fear God

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. **Slide#2 College Ministry Series:** If you are age 18 to 25 don't miss the *Love & Respect video series* beg this Friday 7:30pm. Contact Andrew Lacasse for more info.
- B. **Married Couples:** *Love & Respect classes* start Sun, March 30th from 5-7pm in New Room. *This is an 8 week series for Married Couples.*
- C. **Beyond Sight:** Surf Movie showing Sun 3/30 4:30pm rt here at Cal Oaks Theaters (Reading). To purchase tickets go to beyondsightmovie.com - *Bring an unsaved friend/family.*
 - 1. **Slide#3** Play trailer.
- D. **Slide#4** ~~blank~~ **Randy Bennett:** 1 of our ushers. Retired Marine Corp Gunny. Retired Sheriff. Has done several trips to Belize, part of our 1st responder ministry. Daughters is Heidi. Leaving for North Carolina.

II. Slide#5 **Intro:**

- A. **Title:** *Don't Lie - Don't Covet - Fear God*
- B. **Outline:** #9 You Shall Not Bear False Witness; #10 You Shall Not Covet Your Neighbors anything; Fear God.
- C. **How is #10 different from the other commandments? What were the 3 main changes from the 1st giving of the law to here? Did God change?**

III. Slide#6 **#NINE - DON'T LIE (20)**

- A. Note also, the 6th through 9th commandments thus acknowledge a person's *right to his life, home, property, and reputation.*
 - 1. Rom.13:10 *Love does no harm to a neighbor.*
- B. **Slide#7a** Prov.25:18 *A man who bears false witness against his neighbor Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.*
 - 1. Lying can wound a person's character and even destroy his life as effectively as weapons. *It's a murder of their reputation.*
- C. **Slide#7b** Prov.6:16-19 *There are six things the Lord hates - no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family.*
- D. **Slide#8a** **What are ways we bear False?**
 - 1. **We can bear false witness by giving false evidence in a court of law.**
 - a) The primary purpose of a law court is to guarantee justice. To do so the judge & jury need to know the facts.

- b) **2 ways to break this law:** to *say anything* that is untrue **or not saying all** that is true.
 - (1) **Marriage counseling:** “He restrained me”. **Did you?** “yes, but she was coming at me with a knife.” **Did you?** “Yes but...”
 - c) Though this commandment had its primary application *in law courts*, it also seems to rule out **gossip** against one’s neighbor.
- 2. **Slide#8b We can also bear false witness outside of law courts.**
 - a) We are always bearing witness **for or against** our neighbor.
 - b) **Like the man who told untruths about a Rabbi.** Later convicted of it, went to the Rabbi & said *he would do anything to gain his forgiveness*. The Rabbi said ok, go take your feather pillow, & scatter it in the wind. He did that & returned, **is that all?** Now go collect every feather. *That’s impossible!..Exactly.*
- 3. **Slide#8c We can also bear false witness w/o making any positive statement at all.**
 - a) **By merely asking questions:** Like Satan in Job, he doesn’t flat out say Job is a hypocrite or a crook, **but instead** asks, *“Does Job fear God for nothing?”* Sure Job’s a good man on the surface but deep inside?
 - (1) **“Hey, is your wife faithful”, infers what?**
 - (2) **“Does so-n-so pay his bills”, infers what?**
- 4. **Slide#8d We can also bear false witness by not saying anything.**
 - a) If you **hear a lie** told about someone & remain as *dumb as an oyster*(silent) in the conversation **we** are guilty of violating this rule.
- 5. **Slide#8e We can also bear false witness by flattery.**
 - a) Remember what they say about flattery...it’s like *perfume*, **smell it don’t drink it.**

IV. **Slide#9a #TEN - DON’T COVET...ANYTHING (21)**

A. **3 modifications** of the 10 Commandments are found noted:

- 1. (15) The reason for keeping the sabbath was changed from God’s 7th-day rest to the Exodus event. [i.e. Sabbath was for Israel redeemed from Egypt, we never were]
- 2. (21) Priority was given to **your neighbor’s wife** above his other possessions.
 - a) Some think this **marked progress in the status** of women. **It may, however,** have been a **warning** against following the **low sexual standards** of the **Canaanites**.
- 3. (21) The addition of **his field** was necessitated by the change from a **nomadic** to an **agricultural** life-style.
 - a) **Did God change?** No Israel did.

B. **Slide#9b** First, not all **coveting** is bad:

- 1. You can **covet to work**; **covet to love others**; **Earnestly desire**(covet) **the best gifts**.

2. To desire or covet isn't always **bad**. Our goal is not to become *Christian Buddhist*. [whose goal is the cessation of all desire] (as the deer pants for the water, so my soul longest after You)
- C. To **covet** means "to lust for, or crave." It forbids a desire towards anything we have no right to.
1. This was different from the other commandments in that it did not deal with a **specific act**, but rather with an **emotional, psychological sin**.
 - a) *This is why #10 is so different.*
 2. Therefore the breaking of this commandment **couldn't be prosecuted in a law court**.
 - a) Yet "lust for another's property" often led to the breaking of the 6th-9th commandments.
 3. This was the point Jesus was making in His exposition of commandments 6 & 7 (Matt. 5:21-32; deals with murder/anger - adultery/lust after; stealing/cut off rt hand)
 4. It may have been possible for someone to keep the first 9 commandments but no one could have avoided breaking the 10th at some time.
 - a) In this respect **the 10th commandment is the most forceful of all**, because it made people aware of their **inability to keep God's Law perfectly**.
 - b) And this awareness threw them back to depend on **God's grace and mercy**.
- D. Slide#10a Whats the harm of covetousness?
1. **Covetousness kills contentment**.
 - a) Because it fixes our gaze on what we don't have rather than upon what we do.
 - b) It the picture of the man feeding hogs. He dumps a 100 ears of corn onto the ground. One hog grabs one ear & takes off up a hill to protect it, yet there are plenty for the handful of hogs. Worse yet, one takes off after him trying to get it from him.
 - (1) Don't be a human hog.
 - (2) It's the story of **king Ahab** pouting over not having his next door neighbors property (Naboth). Jezebel framed him, had him killed.
 - (3) It's the story of **Haman** who had some pretty fine qualities. He was strong, smart. A foreigner who worked his way up to #2 in the Persian Empire. Everybody looked up to him. Everybody bowed down to him...except 1 man. This so enraged him that he couldn't see the 1000's that did but only the one that didn't. It made him so miserable that he got himself hung over it.
 2. Slide#10b Covetousness leads to wrong doing.
 - a) Its a fountain from which flows many poisonous streams. Covetousness can lead to **lying**, lead to **bearing false witness**, lead to **adultery, stealing**.
 3. Slide#10c Covetousness is a **deadly** thing even if it doesn't lead to outside sin.
 - a) Remember the guy who was tired of hearing Jesus share a great sermon on the Holy Spirit & must have been thinking, "why wont he speak to things that really count" & finally couldn't take it any longer & blurts out, "Teacher, tell my brother to

divide the inheritance with me...And He said to him, “Take heed and beware of **covetousness**, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

E. Slide#11a How do we conquer this deadly foe?

1. Refuse to fix your attention on the forbidden.

a) Refuse to look longingly on what you can’t have. That can range from a **donut** to a member of the **opposite sex**.

b) **How do we do this?** It’s not just closing our eyes. We can forget the forbidden by looking at that which is first legitimate. Re-focus from the *forbidden* to the *permitted*.

2. Slide#11b Be set right within.

a) It’s the way of conversation. It’s the way of new birth. It’s the way of personal surrender.

F. (22) This verse emphasizes the **divine origin** of the 10 Commandments and the **awe-inspiring setting** in which they were given. (i.e. *fire, cloud, deep darkness, a loud voice*)

V. Slide#12 **FEARING GOD (23-33)**

A. He recalled the reactions of the people to the awesome manifestations of God that accompanied the giving of the law (23-27).

B. Slide#13 Fire is, throughout the Bible, a symbol of *the divine presence*. (23,23,24,25,26)

C. (25-27) They beg Moses to **mediate** between themselves & God.

1. *“Moses you approach the mountain in our place.”*

2. The type of **fear** (terror) that the Israelites experienced was not the type of fear (reverence) which God expected.

3. Israel recognized that a **great gulf** lay between themselves & God.

a) There was a **dire need** for an **intermediary** to bridge that gap.

b) That intermediary was **Moses**, who willingly mediated God’s covenant to *Israel*.

4. Slide#14 Moses foreshadowed **Jesus**, who freely mediated God’s new covenant to *all who believe*.

D. The people’s **acceptance** of the cov was indicated by their statement, **we will hear it & do it** (27)

E. **God, in turn, promised blessings for obedience** (28-33).

1. Though the Lord approved of the people’s response, He hinted that they would not carry through with their good intentions. **But** the past conduct of the Israelites *tipped God off* as to their ability to fulfill their part of the covenant, so God says, **O that there were such a heart in them** (29).

F. Verse 29 makes it clear that the Law must be **in the heart**, or there can be no true obedience.

1. 2 Cor. 3 teaches that the NT believer has the Law written in his heart by **the Spirit of God**; **and** Rom. 8:1-4 explains that we obey the Law by **the power of the Spirit**.
- G. (31) The specific **commandments/decrees, statutes, & judgements/ordinances** Moses was to share with them form the bulk/rest of Deut.