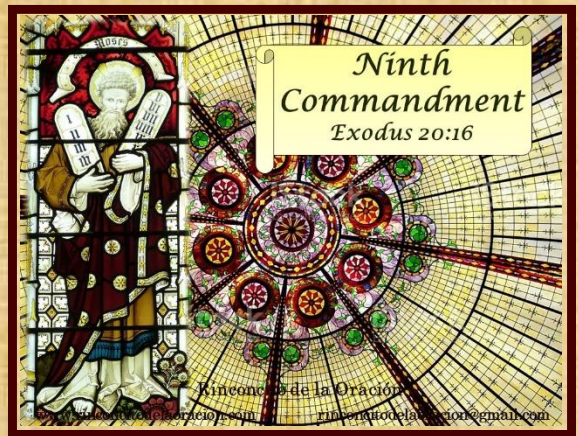


According to Exodus 20:16 The Ninth Commandment says: *"Thy shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."*

What does The Ninth Commandment order?

The Ninth Commandment commands that we uphold and promote the truth among human beings, as well as our good name and that of our neighbor, especially in bearing witness.



Zechariah 8:16-17 – 1 Peter 3:16 – 3 John 12 - Proverbs 14:5-25

What does the Ninth Commandment forbid?

The Ninth Commandment forbids everything that harms the truth or is injurious to one's own good name or that of our neighbor.

Romans 3:13 – Job 27:5 – Psalms – 15:3

Conclusion: The basic meaning of this commandment is related to legal procedures which may be upset whenever there is defamation, falsity in the testimony by one of the parties before a court or authority, as well as, remaining silent or denying of a truth. False testimony is a crime that occurs when a subject denies the truth in his statements before a judicial authority.

Agreeing to give false testimony is like killing someone else. And so it was with Jesus when *"... the chief priests and the elders and all the council sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death..."* (Matthew 26:59). The Pharisees and other religious authorities bore false witness against Jesus during His trial. They were false and distorted accusations that sought to discredit His message, thus justifying His conviction.

False testimony was part of a series of events that led to Jesus' crucifixion. The Pharisees and other religious leaders accused him of blasphemy and of saying He was the Messiah, which was regarded as a challenge to their authority and an act worthy of death penalty under Jewish law at the time.

False testimony also contributed to create a hostile environment towards Jesus, influencing public opinion and decision-making by the Roman authorities, who eventually condemned Him to death.

The New Testament mentions slander as part of our old sinful nature, which has no place when we are born again and become new children in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Colossians

3:7-8 says, “... in which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”

As we become new children, our thoughts, words, and deeds are aimed at glorifying God as well as our bodies (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:29). We, who abide in Christ, have the responsibility to refrain from slandering: *"Therewith bless we God and Father; and therewith curse we men, who are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."* (James 3:9-10). Slander is a practice that should not exist if we intend to follow Jesus (Romans 6:11-14).

When someone is tempted to tell a falsehood, he should examine his own feelings to know its origin. It may spring from a root of bitterness (Hebrews 12:15), from an unresolved wound (1 Peter 3:14-16), from lack of forgiveness (2 Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 4:32), jealousy (Galatians 5:20; 2 Corinthians 12:20), or other sins that are formed and stored within our hearts. Being aware of this, we should repent and hand over that heavy burden to our Lord, to help us desist from our position.

False testimony should be avoided as it is cleverly contrived and spread with the intention of harming an innocent person. Hence, we must be careful when issuing our opinion and judgment about another person trying by all means to be truthful, and not pretend, lie or keep silent, since God is Truth, and detests lying: *"Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. Keep thee far from a false matter ..."* Exodus 23:1 and 7, since our mission is to walk in holiness, leaving all grudge behind.

Translation: E.G. Monteagudo

Rinconcito de la Oración

www.rinconcitodelaoracion.com

rinconcitodelaoracion@gmail.com