

Torah Studies

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



The Ninth Commandment Exodus 20:16

Rabbi Learning – Boris Dubrov

The Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

Introduction

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Previously in Exodus:

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Introduction

Previously in Exodus:

- After going through all of Genesis we went chapter by chapter through half of Exodus.
- We are now in the midst of going through the Ten Commandments one by one.
- So far, we have looked at Commandments One through Eight.

The Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 20:16:

The Ninth Commandment

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What to expect in Exodus 20:16:

- The Ninth Commandment prohibits the bearing of false witness.
- We will look at what that means and how to apply it.

Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

- Psalm 119:169-172 (NKJV)

169 Let my cry come before You, O Lord;
Give me understanding according to Your word.

170 Let my supplication come before You;
Deliver me according to Your word.

Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

- Psalm 119:169-172 (NKJV)

171 My lips shall utter praise,

For You teach me Your statutes.

172 My tongue shall speak of Your word,

For all Your commandments are righteousness.

The Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

Introduction



The Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

- This verse says,

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Introduction



The Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

Message Outline



The Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

Message Outline

- I. Defining the Commandment
- II. The Background of Truth v Lies
- III. The Category of False Witness
- IV. Speaking the Truth in Love



I. Defining the Commandment



I. Defining the Commandment



- The strictest understanding of this commandment prohibits declaring something which is false about someone else.
- The restatement of the command in **Deuteronomy** is identical except for the opening “**And.**”

I. Defining the Commandment



- Deuteronomy 5:20

And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

I. Defining the Commandment



- The first instance of this is with Eve and the Serpent back in the Garden.
- Let's go to **Genesis 3:1-5**.

I. Defining the Commandment



- I'm not sure how to categorize what Eve says.
- It is not exactly true according to **Genesis 2:16-17**.
- Not all statements which are factually incorrect are lies.
- It might be just a mistake.

I. Defining the Commandment



- On the other hand, the Serpent is clearly trying to make God look bad.
- He is accusing God of lying with some kind of selfish motives.
- He is **bearing false witness** against God.

I. Defining the Commandment



- Let's look at another example, from a very sad time in Israel's history.
- Turn to **1 Kings 21:1-16**.
- We might call this a textbook violation of the commandment as it is worded.

I. Defining the Commandment



- **Proverbs 12:22**

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

but those who act faithfully are his delight.

II. The Background of Truth v. Lies



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- Psalm 15:1-2

1 O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?

Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

2 He who walks blamelessly and does what is right

and speaks truth in his heart.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- Psalm 51.6

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- As we've seen earlier, false witnesses corrupt the system of justice.
- A corrupt justice system is one component of a society that is nearing collapse.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- **Isaiah 59:14-15**

14 Justice is turned back,

and righteousness stands far away;
for truth has stumbled in the public
squares,

and uprightness cannot enter.

15 Truth is lacking ...



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- **Isaiah 59:14-15**

and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- On the other hand, truth is part of the very nature of God.
- And lying is what comes naturally to the devil.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- John 14:6

Jesus said ..., “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- The truth is a person – Jesus Christ.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- Paul considers the gospel a message of truth from an entirely truthful God.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- Titus 1:1-2

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies [*apseudés*] promised before the ages began.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- Speaking of the false teachers that were infiltrating the Corinthian church, Paul said the following.
- **2 Corinthians 11:13-14**

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- Speaking of the false teachers that were infiltrating the Corinthian church, Paul said the following.

- **2 Corinthians 11:13-14**

14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.



II. The Background of Truth v. Lies

- John ties truth and falsehood with walking in the light or walking in darkness.
- See **1 John 1:5-10**



III. The Category of False Witness



III. The Category of False Witness



- All lying fits into the category of false witness.
- Note the parallelism here.

- **Proverbs 19:5**

A false witness will not go unpunished,

and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

III. The Category of False Witness



- The law admits that there can be various pressures to lie that we have to avoid.

- **Exodus 23:1-3**

You shall not spread a false report.
You shall not join hands with a
wicked man to be a malicious
witness. 2 You shall not fall in with
the many to do evil ...

III. The Category of False Witness



- The law admits that there can be various pressures to lie that we have to avoid.
- **Exodus 23:1-3**
... nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, 3 nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit.

III. The Category of False Witness



- Any and all deceptive practices can be lumped together as lies.

- **Psalm 101:7**

No one who practices deceit
shall dwell in my house;
no one who utters lies
shall continue before my eyes.

III. The Category of False Witness



- It is also fair to put all forms of slander and gossip into this category.
- The goal is essentially the same, to ruin someone's reputation.

III. The Category of False Witness



- Titus 2:3a

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine.

Slanderer = *diabolos*, as in devil, who is a slanderer by nature. His entire focus is to accuse, falsely if needed.

III. The Category of False Witness



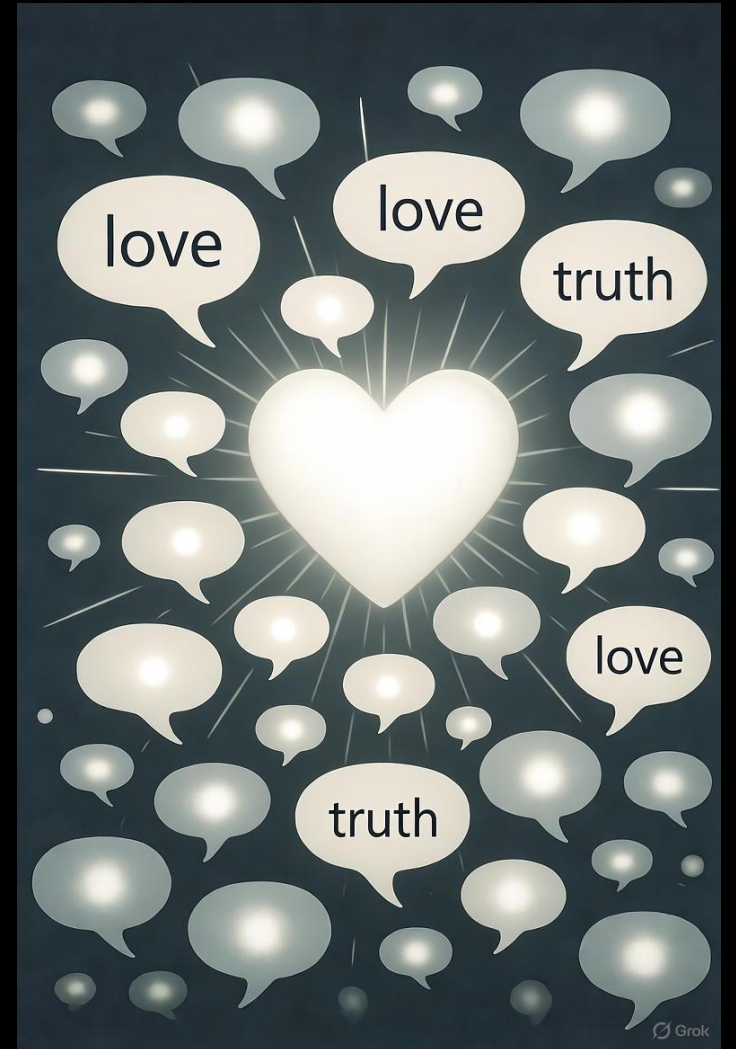
- Lying is also involved in hypocrisy.
- For example, when one tries to appear godly to impress others.
- Let's look at **Acts 5:1-11**.
- This a time in the early church when people were selling property and giving it to the apostles.

III. The Category of False Witness



- The alternative behavior, what God wants to see, is speaking the truth, and doing so in love.

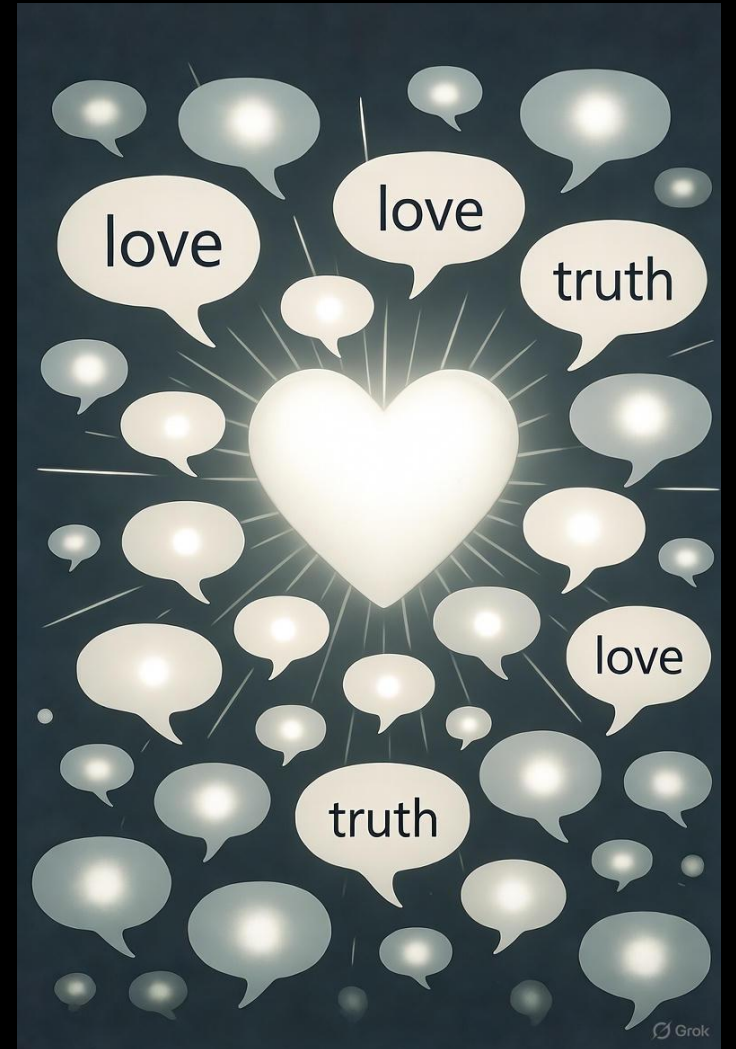
IV. Speaking the Truth in Love



IV. Speaking the Truth in Love

- The truth helps us to grow in Christ.
- **Ephesians 4:15**

Rather, speaking the truth in love,
we are to grow up in every way into
him who is the head, into Christ.

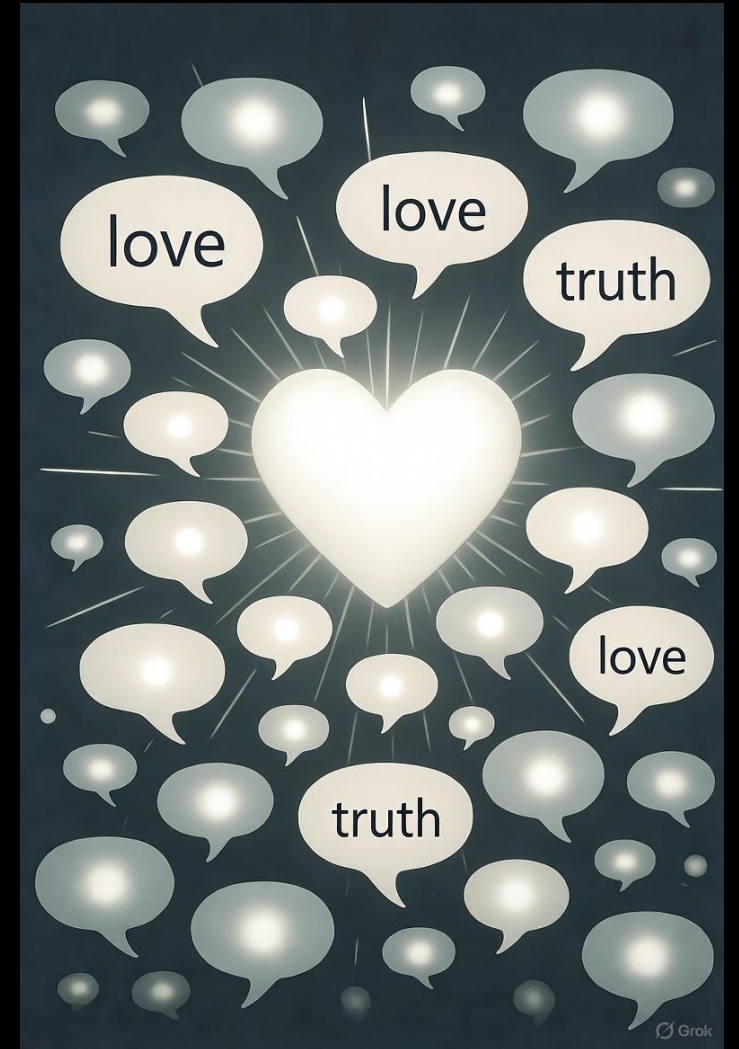


IV. Speaking the Truth in Love

- It is part of our new nature, conformed to the image of God.

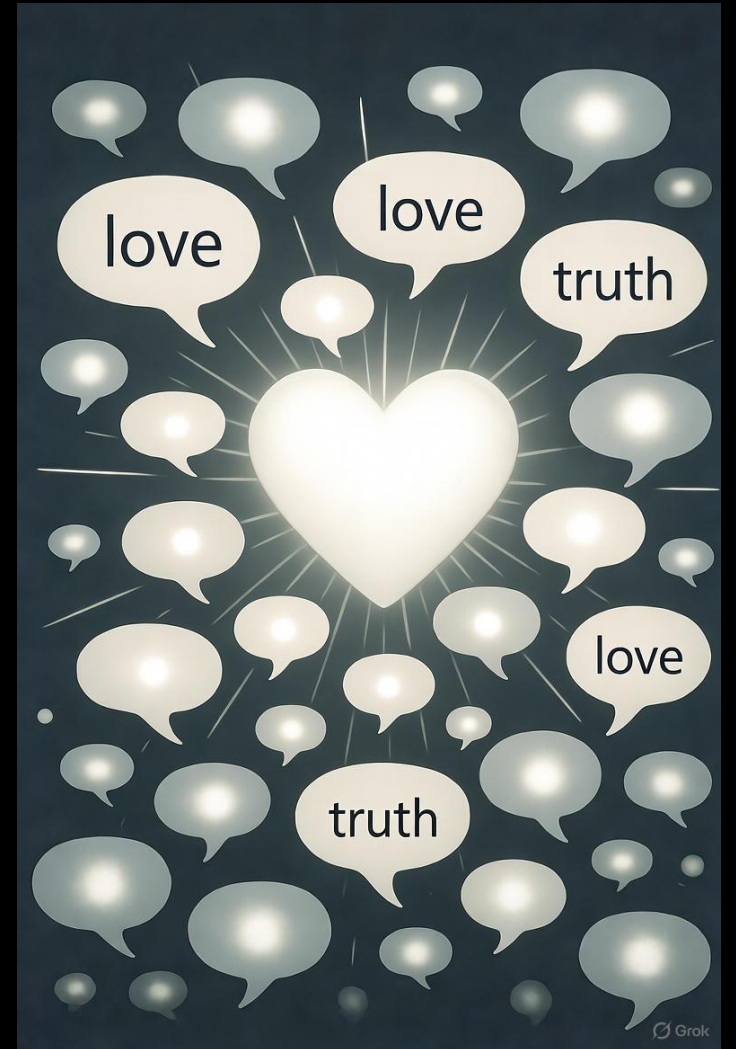
- **Colossians 3:9-10**

9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.



IV. Speaking the Truth in Love

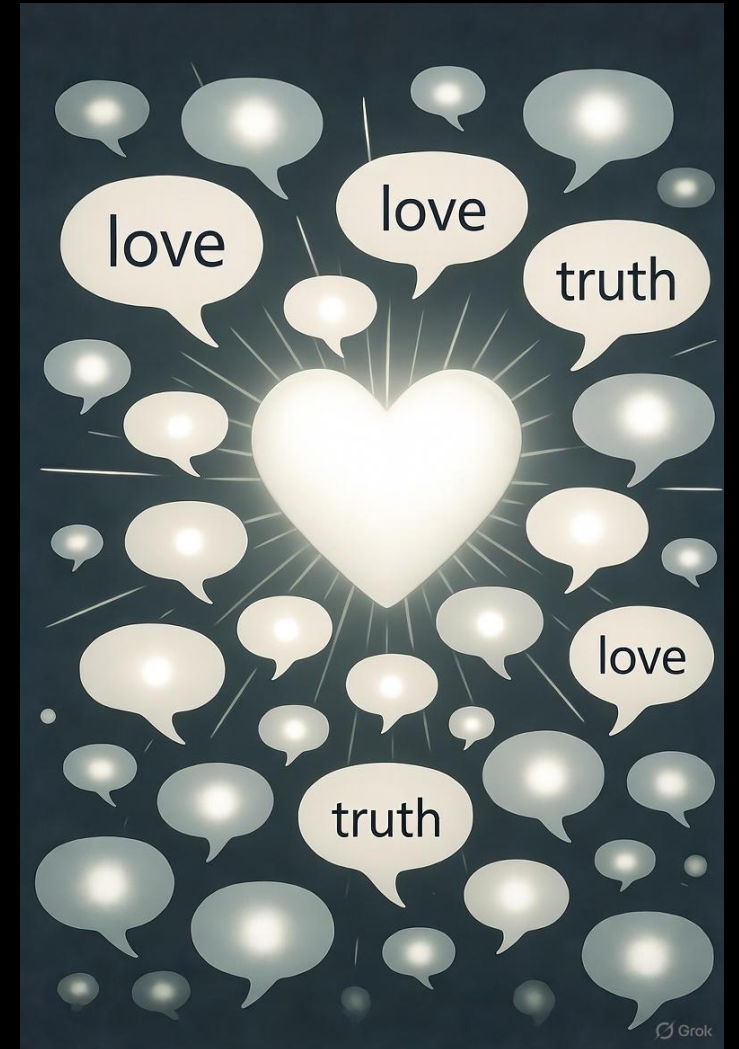
- People speaking the truth to one another will transform a corrupt culture.
- It helps build a society that is pleasing to God.



IV. Speaking the Truth in Love

- Zechariah 8:14-17

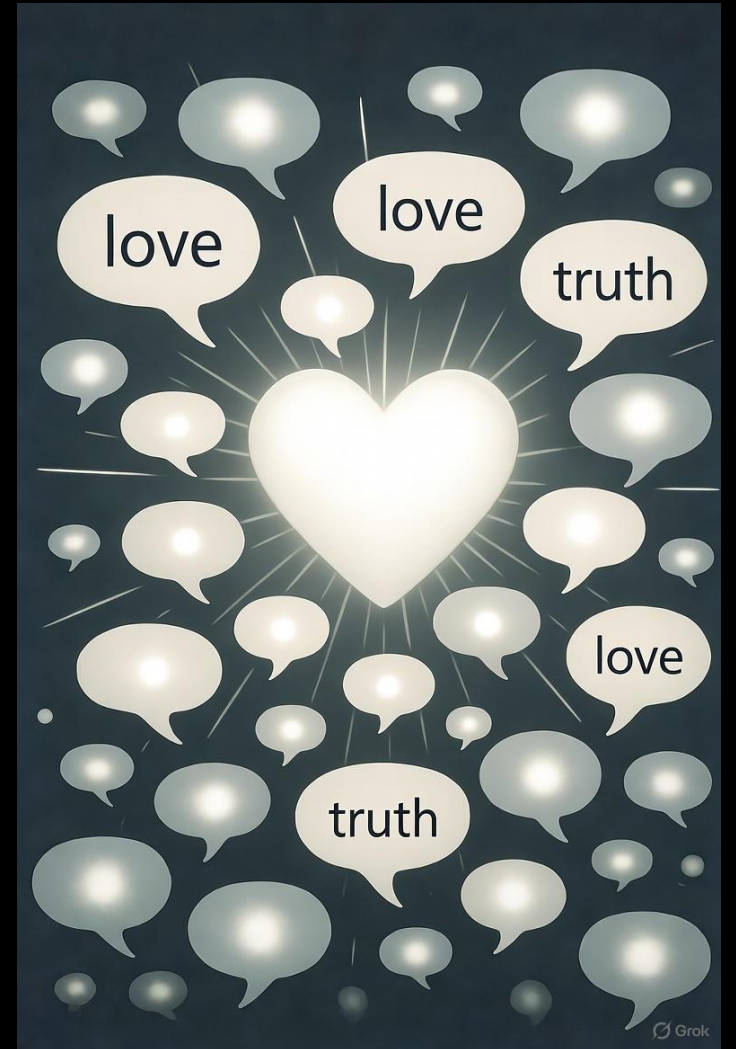
14 For thus says the Lord of hosts:
“As I purposed to bring disaster to
you when your fathers provoked me
to wrath, and I did not relent, says
the Lord of hosts, 15 so again have I
purposed in these days to bring good
to Jerusalem and to the house of
Judah; fear not.



IV. Speaking the Truth in Love

- Zechariah 8:14-17

... 16 These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; 17 do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.”



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Conclusions



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Christ as the Embodiment of Truth

Conclusions



The Ninth Commandment

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Christ as the Embodiment of Truth

- John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Conclusions



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God's Word as the Expression of Truth

Conclusions



The Ninth Commandment

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God's Word as the Expression of Truth

- John 8:31-32

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Conclusions



The Ninth Commandment

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The Christian Life as Walking in Truth

Conclusions



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The Christian Life as Walking in Truth

- I think we can best see this in **2 John 1:1-7**.
- Let's turn there and read that passage.

Conclusions



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Finally

Conclusions



The Ninth Commandment

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Finally

- As we've seen, the Ninth Commandment calls us to reject lies and embrace truth.
- Jesus declares, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Conclusions



The Ninth Commandment

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Finally

- He is the living truth who frees us from deceit.
- Absorb His truth into your heart, receive Him as your Savior, and live for Him by speaking love and grace each day.

Conclusions



The Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

Finally

- Let's reject all the works of the devil, who is the ultimate accuser
- He is the father of lies, whose deceptive ways are clouded in darkness.

Conclusions



The Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

Finally

- And let's commit to fully embracing Jesus Christ who is the truth.
- Let's commit to abiding in the Word of God, so that we might be Christ's true disciples.
- As John described it, let's "walk in the truth."

Conclusions

