

Bearing False Witness



Understanding and repenting from the sin of
bearing a false witness

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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¹ Meaning: The ANOINTED one

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Understanding & repenting from the sin of bearing a false witness

The 9th Commandment is defined as:

Exodus 20:16 *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”*

Although the words are few in number, the content and the content within which we should consider these words is quite diverse. The misconception in the world is that it's unacceptable to lie ... **this verse helps us to understand that we have a positive Mitvah / good deed to do, to guard your neighbours reputation.**

Not only should we be careful how and when we speak, but we should know that unless we can be counted as one of two /three witness, that we should be extremely careful be a witness.

Exodus 23:1 *“You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit.”*

In the **Book of James**, we read that the tongue has the potential to cause massive evil – that description alone, should be enough to put all believers on guard.

James 3:5-6 *“So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.”*

1. Wounds can be the cause of massive wounds.

Proverbs 18:8-9 *“The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.”*

2. Words spoken in a joke are more often than not meant in earnest, and reveal the heart of a coward.

Proverbs 26:18-19 *“Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, “I am only joking!”*

3. Gossip (words spoken when the other person is not present and able to defend themselves) will cause division amongst friends, as the element of TRUST will be irrevocably broken.

Proverbs 17:9 "Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends."

4. People whose only purpose in life are (i) not delving deeply in the WORD on a daily basis and (ii) are not walking in their calling of being a good steward (they are idle and lazy)

1 Timothy 5:13 "Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busy-bodies, saying what they should not."

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 "For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busy-bodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living."

5. Slander is worse than gossip ...

It's the act of accusing falsely ... of spreading stories which are not true, or spreading stories where "added" facts are included to make the situation seem worse, or spreading stories based on assumptions of what they perceive to be the case.

Paul tells us that this type of sin is called "false accusers" and is equated with the Greek word "**diabolos**", in other words, **slandering is the same as speaking on behalf of the Devil.**

Titus 2:1-3 "But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,"

Psalm 101:5 "Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure."

How do we uphold the Truthfulness and Integrity?

(a) Be prudent in all matters: be a man / woman of Integrity

James 3:9-12 “and with it (tongue) we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.”

James 3:13 “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.”

Psalms 15:1-2 “O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;”

(b) Exercise the Fruit of the Holy Spirit: make self-control an integral part of your thinking

Proverbs 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”

Psalms 34:12-13 “What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.”

(c) Accept your calling to be a good Steward: love your neighbour

Proverbs 10:19-22 “When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent. The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense. The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.”

Isaiah 52:7-8 “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen - they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.”

Proverbs 26:20-21 “For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases. As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.”

(d) Obey the 9th Commandment

Ephesians 4:25-29 “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **and give no opportunity to the devil.** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. **Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”**

(e) Learn the Biblical Truth God hates those who are critical of others

Proverbs 6:16-19 “There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, **a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.”**

False witness / gossiping / slandering will be judged.

Revelation 21:7-8 “The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and she will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Priestly Blessing

Numbers 6:24-27

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:27 *“In this way they are to put **My Name** on the people of Isra’el, so that I will **Bless** them.”*

