



**STAND YOUR GROUND, Part IV**  
**Feb. 25 & Mar 2, 2022 Teacher: Roger Thompson**  
**“Lying is Stealing”**

***Commandment #9: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor***

- Lying is stealing with words:

**3 Reasons God Prohibits False Witness**

**1) God’s people are to reflect God’s character.**

- Numbers 23:19

*In the societal realm, TRUTH is even more important than compassion or kindness. Virtually all the great societal evils--whether African slavery, communism, Nazism or anti-Semitism—have been based on lies.*

Dennis Prager

- Westminster Catechism:
  - Never lie or deceive in court
  - God’s will is to never give false testimony against anyone
  - Twist no one’s words
  - Do not gossip or slander
- Case law: Exodus 23:1-9
- Truth at ethical borderlines:

**2) False witness is deliberately destructive to the victim**

- Leviticus 19:18/ Romans 13:9
  - Partial truth
  - Silence when correction or information is withheld
  - Ignoring context
  - Spin: the conclusion is in place prior to the facts being known
  - Dishonest advertising
  - Changing language/ redefining meanings

- Westminster Catechism:
  - Do not join in condemning anyone without a just cause
  - I should love the truth
  - I should speak the truth candidly
  - I should openly acknowledge the truth
  - I should do what I can to advance my neighbor's good name

### **3) False witness is destructive to the judicial system and the society**

- Lawless nations
  
- Lawless streets

### **Discussion questions**

1. Over what arenas of my life and relationships do I have control over telling the truth? Where do I not control truthfulness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Have you ever been in a situation where not telling the truth was justified?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How should I respond to a rumor or gossip?