

## The Ninth & The Tenth Commandment

### References:

1. H.H. Pope Shenouda III: Contemplations on the Ten Commandments, Vol 4

### Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

### Objectives:

**General:** Understand the full scope of these two commandments.

**Specific:**

1. The importance of these commandments.
2. Usually unnoticed ways of disobeying these commandments.
3. False witness and Coveting are very serious offences.

### Instructions:

1. Church occasion
2. .
3. .

### Bible Verse:

**Alf ye love me, keep my commandments.@**

(John 14:15)

### Lesson:

#### The Ninth Commandment

**AThou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbour.@**

[Ex. 20:16]

#### *What is a false witness?*

A false witness is a lie.

#### *Types of lies...*

1. **Circulating false rumours:** Some simple-minded people believe everything they hear and circulate it as a fact without examining and ascertaining it. Jesus said, **ATherefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.@ [Matt. 10:16]**
2. **Listening to lies:** He who listens to lies encourages the liar to continue lying and the insincere evil-doers to surround him. For this reason the Bible says, **Alf a ruler pays**

**attention to lies, all his servants become wicked.@ [Pro. 29:12]**

3. **Flattery and Favouritism:** Excessive and false commendation is outright lying that often hurts and deceives a person. What makes this sin more abominable is the hypocrisy of one who commends a person while facing him and criticizing him in his absence.

4. **Half-Truths:** In this case, the speaker conceals the other side of the truth that may reverse the situation. An example of this is the disclosure of a person=s weak points and the concealment of their good ones thus presenting a distorted image that is completely opposite of the actual fact.

5. **Excessive Exaggeration:** Embellishing the truth to emphasize a point or to make a story more interesting is a very easy way to lie.

6. **Concealment of certain facts is not a form of lying.** Man has secrets that he is entitled to conceal and he is entrusted with some other people=s secrets that it is his duty to keep in tact.

### ***Reasons for lying...***

**Hide another sin:** Lying is a double sin that most often hides behind it another sin. It is a cover-up for a previous sin. Thus the liar goes from one lie to another in an endless circle.

**Embarrassment and fear:** Silence is better than lying. Therefore, in this situation, change the conversation, or apologize for not answering. Tell the truth as far as you can or speak up frankly and bravely defend your position.

**Arrogance:** Arrogance may be a cause to conceal one=s ignorance. However, there is no harm in someone saying at times, **AI don=t know.@**

### ***How do people feel about liars?***

1. Lying indicates fear and a personality weakness. A truthful person, on the other hand, is courageous and shoulders the responsibility of his actions.

2. Nobody trusts the words of a liar. Even when he tells the truth, people doubt his honesty. He may resort to swearing to prove the truth but people even doubt his oath and his words have no authenticity.

The devil is the first liar. He lied to our first fore-parents when he told them through the serpent: **AYou will not surely die.@ [Gen. 3:4]** Jesus said about the devil: **AHe is a liar, and the father of it.@ [John 8:44]**

### **Conclusion:**

Have I told lies, or added to or subtracted from the truth?

Have I made careless statements or spoken evil of anyone?

Have I told any secrets entrusted to me, or betrayed anyone?

Have I gossiped about anyone or harmed their reputation?

Have I concealed the truth, assisted in carrying out a lie, or pretended to commit a sin of which I was not guilty?

Have I tried to see the good in others rather than their short comings?

## The Tenth Commandment

**You shall not covet your neighbour's wife;  
and you shall not desire your neighbour's house, his field,  
his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey,  
or anything that is your neighbour's.**

[Ex. 20:17]

### *The seriousness of lust...*

- + Lust is the root for many sins: Adultery begins with the bodily lust, stealing with the lust to possess or the lust for money, lying with the lust for justification or plotting for something, and murder with the lust for revenge. If you conquer it, you will conquer all sins.
- + You gradually move on from thinking about it, to getting attached to it, to being led by it, to fulfilling it, to repeating it, to getting crazy about it, and to being enslaved by it.
- + Man may resort to wrongful ways to fulfill his lusts: to lying, deceit, trickery, and more!

### *Disadvantages of satisfying lust...*

1. Lust is never satisfied. Jesus said, **Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again.** [John 4:13] Whenever man pursues lust he finds pleasure, and pleasure invites him to another pursuit, and the story never ends.
2. Satisfying lust does not save man from it but increases it. Adam had all the trees in Paradise except one. He was not satisfied but longed for that one in particular. David had seven women, and yet he was not satisfied but lusted for another. Ahab who woned a lot was not satisfied with all his possessions and craved for the field of Naboth the Jezreelite.

### *Types of lust...*

**"For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." [Gal. 5:24]**

Lust of the flesh: adultery, food, or enjoyment of sight, hearing or smelling.

Lust for money, possessions, and property.

Lust for being honoured or becoming famous.

Lust for positions, titles, and greatness.

### *How to avoid lust...*

Since lust does not give up until it is fulfilled, escaping from it is the better way... **"Flee also youthful lusts."** [2 Tim. 2:22]

**"The flesh lusts against the spirit." [Gal. 5:17] "And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." [Gal. 5:24]**

Continually think about the other life, love of others, the spirit of giving and thankfulness.

Renounce the world... **"The world is passing away, and the lust of it." [1 John 2:17]**

## Conclusions:

Have I envied anything good that has come to others?  
Have I been jealous of another=s good fortune?  
Have I wished for anything that was another=s?  
Have I wished for things God has not given me, or been discontented with my lot?  
Have I been stingy?  
Have I held back anything due another?  
Have I hoped for the downfall of anyone so that I might gain by it?  
Have I failed to be gracious and generous to anyone? Have I expected God to give me that which I would refuse one of my fellow men?

## Jesus And The Ten Commandments

<b>The Ten Commandments Said...</b>	<b>Jesus Said...</b>
AHave no other gods before me@ [Ex. 20:3]	AThou shalt worship the Lord thy God; and him only shalt thou serve@ [Mt. 4:10]
AThou shalt not make unto thee any graven image@ [Ex. 20:4]	ANo servant can serve two masters@ [Lk. 16:13]
AThou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain@ [Ex. 20:7]	ASwear not at all; neither by heaven for it is God=s throne, nor by earth, for it is God=s footstool.@ [Mt. 5:34]
ARemember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy@ [Ex. 20:8]	AThe Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore, the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.@ [Mt. 2:27-28]
AHonour thy father and thy mother@ [Ex. 20:12]	AHe that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me@ [Mt. 10:37]
AThou shalt not kill@ [Ex. 20:13]	AWhosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.@ [Mt. 5:22]
AThou shalt not commit adultery.@ [Ex. 20:14]	AWhosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.@ [Mt. 5:28]
AThou shalt not steal.@ [Ex. 20:15]	AIf any man take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.@ [Mt. 5:40]
AThou shalt not bear false witness.@ [Ex. 20:16]	AEvery idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.@ [Mt. 12:36]
AThou shalt not covet.@ [Ex. 20:17]	ATake heed, and beware of covetousness.@ [Lk. 12:15]