

Sun., May 31, Drive-In Worship, Pentecost

2020 Ten Commandments Series: Set Free to Live Free: The 10 Commandments

Second Series: Love Others

Second Series Memory Verse: "I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts." -Psalm 119:43-44

Second Series Text: "The second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands." -Matthew 22:39-40

Second Series Scripture: Exodus 20:1-21 and Psalm 16

Message: Live Free: No Lying! (The Spirit of Truth)

Memory Verse: John 16:13a "When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth."

Scripture: Exodus 20:16, John 14:6-26 (various),

Blurb: This Sunday is Pentecost, the third of the three biggest Christian celebrations. We mark the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us as God's people, to live in us and through us. We are not alone! The Bible also calls the Holy Spirit "The Spirit of Truth." On Pentecost we will have the last of our Ten Commandment messages: "Don't lie." We celebrate that we have the Spirit of Truth so that we can stop lying and start speaking words of life and truth!

Worship is facing the building, worship team on the bed of a pickup in the sidewalk.

Fellowship hall door open for bathrooms.

Please turn off car engines to help everyone hear better.

Opening Music: [Piped music over the speakers] -Pastor Andrew

As people drive in, teens in PPE greet them at the entrance and:

- 1. Wish them a good morning!*
- 2. Give them a bulletin (provided)*
- 3. Ask if they want a printout of the message (provided)*
- 4. Give them a Pentecost cookie, one for each person, telling them they will be instructed when to eat them during the service*
- 5. Give them a pinwheel, telling them instructions will be during the service*
- 6. Tell them any offerings will be collected as they exit*
- 7. Pull ahead where others (Lynn and Cassi) will direct them into parking places*

Welcome -Pastor David

Pentecost!

Memory Verse -Pastor David

"When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth." -John 16:13a

Worship Music Set -Sanctify (acoustic)*I Love to Hear You Speak*

Liturgy: Based on Psalm 119 - Pastor Andrew

How Firm a Foundation

Worship Prayer -Pastor Andrew

Offering -Pastor Andrew**Generational Bridge:** Lemuel the Lion -Pastor Andrew and Vicky**Message:** 10 Commandments “Live Free: No Lying (The Spirit of Truth)” -Pastor David

Part 1: Living Free by Not Lying

The Ten Commandments: Set Free to Live Free. Love God—that’s the first four Commandments—and love others—that’s the last six commandments. Living free by not lying.

This message will be in two parts, because it is Pentecost Sunday, where we celebrate that we as Jesus-followers have been given the Holy Spirit—and we are also finishing the Ten Commandment series. We go back and pick up the 9th Commandment, which says, in Exodus 20:16, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Pentecost and truth. God, who is the God of Truth, sent Jesus, who said in John 14:6 that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life—He came to change our lives as the Truth. The God of Truth then sent us the Holy Spirit, whom the Bible calls the Spirit of Truth, so that as changed disciples we can walk in the light of truth. 1 John 5:6b “It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.”

Truth, biblically, is relative. It’s not relative in that it is different for each person, like our culture teaches us: “what is true for you may not be true for me.” It is relative, in that we have a *relationship* with the Truth: it is the person of Jesus. The Holy Spirit joins us to Jesus and applies His salvation to our lives. So, truth is relative, *a relative*: it is our Heavenly Father, it is our spiritual brother Jesus, and it is our indwelling Holy Spirit. God of Truth. Jesus is the Truth. And the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.

Truth is a pretty big deal for God, wouldn’t you say? It is such a big deal because it is only with the truth that we can be set free to live free. When truth is relative, as culture teaches, then we remained stuck. It has no power to make us new, because it is bound to us just the way we are. We need outside help, not making truth subject to the way we are now. It cannot call us out of ourselves.

Truth must be individually applied, yes. We must consider each of our own individual circumstances. One person may need to hear that God frees from addiction. Another person may need to hear God frees from anger. Our God comes to us where we are, but because God is love, He is never content to leave us where we are. Beware culture’s teaching of relative truth...it reduces God to our level, and in so doing, leaves us trapped just as we are!

From the beginning, God’s identity as Truth determines the character of His people. Right from the top of Mt. Sinai, in the earliest standards of godly living, God proclaims that His people do not speak lies. Titus 1:2: “God never lies.” And His people, therefore, are not to lie. God says, “In our family, we don’t do that. It’s not who we are.”

And I want you to see today, church, that right from the 10 Commandments, God calls His people into holiness. He wants us to be like He is. God is holy, and He wants us to be holy. God is Truth, and He wants us to live and speak truth. God is life, and He wants us to give and promote life.

Our life patterns are patterned after our God. This is the key to Pentecost! In the 10 Commandments, God sets up the expectation of holiness. He then sends Jesus to take away our bent to sinning, to interrupt our penchant to violating the covenant, to break our allegiance to selfishness, through His death and resurrection as our Savior. But He also sends the Holy Spirit to teach us what is true and right and good, guide us in being holy like God, and empower us to live out in our daily lives the way that leads us into our best life. God way, say it with me: God's way is my best life!

So, Ninth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Now, at first glance, this commandment sounds like it's about legal trials in a court of law. Well, it certainly does include that. Bearing false witness means speaking testimony in some way that is false and hurts your neighbor. God doesn't want you doing that for two reasons. One is that God is truth and He wants His followers speaking truth. But also, God loves your neighbor, and He does not want you hurting them! They are His kid's, too, and God wants you to bless them. Every time you bear false witness against your neighbor, you are poking their momma-bear God. Maybe the word "bear" will help you think about this differently next time: don't poke the bear by bearing false witness against her cub, your neighbor!

But there is more going on here than just a court room scenario. It is all about truth-telling. Sometimes we recite this commandment as "no lying," to capture this meaning.

The real root problem this commandment forbids is *construing things selfishly*. Bearing false witness, lying, contorts things away from the way that favors others and manipulates them in a way that favors you instead. You know this if you have ever been in a fight or conflict. It's true even with the people you love most! We all do it. 1. She's mad at you, and when you go over it again in your mind, all you see is how you did nothing wrong, and it's all her fault. 2. Lying on your resume: makes you sound better than you are so your potential employer will think more highly of you than she ought. 3. Office politics...passing off responsibility, "This wasn't my responsibility, I was out of the loop, communication was poor." 4. Facebook responses...you want to look supportive and not deal with the deeper issues at play.

Lying is telling false things, or leaving out certain parts, or construing things in a way that suggests certain things, all for making you somehow look better or get what you want. We're not talking about mistakes: honestly saying something you think is actually true. It's malice: purposefully shaping things so you benefit. It's about the motive. It's again a heart issue. Are you driven by selfishness or selflessness?

In John 8, Jesus says that Satan is a liar, and is the father of all lies. Satan wants to be your father, and take you away from your Heavenly Father of Truth. Sin is like water. It always finds the crack. It always finds the low point. It always finds the opportunity. And it settles in so that it can erode and corrode. Let me give you five lies that Satan uses to infiltrate our cracks.

1. Flattery. Psalm 12:2, "Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak." Flattery is trying to manipulate someone for a certain outcome. God's people, instead, encourage. Flattery is for *your* benefit. Encouragement is for *their* benefit.

2. Deception. First John 3:7, "Little children, let no one deceive you." Deception is using the truth to harm and tear down. Satan is called The Deceiver.

3. Slander, or, in written form, libel. Leviticus 19:16, "You shall not go around as a slanderer." Slander inflicts harm, it's an attack. It's gathering a case against someone you don't like. We do this more today, I think, than ever before, because of social media and our ability to say things anonymously. But I call you to Matthew 12:36, where Jesus says, "On the day of judgment, people will give account for every careless word they speak." That's a horrifying verse, isn't it!

4. False teaching. 2 Peter 2:1, “But false prophets also arose among the people [in the Old Testament] just as there will be false teachers among you.” It’s choosing to hear teachings about God the way we want it, and not the way it really is. It sounds so good. But it doesn’t lead to life.

5. Gossip. 1 Timothy 5:13, “Besides that, they learn not only be idlers but also gossips and busybodies.” This is the bane of fellowship groups, of prayer chains. Here’s the check: are you okay praying for just what you know, or do you want more details? Why? You don’t need them to pray!

So, *why* do we use these five common ways of lying? I’ll give you six reasons why!

1. We want to avoid negative consequences. Right there, we can see that ultimately it’s being selfish. God is self-sacrificing and wants His people to be self-sacrificing. You’re trying to control the future. That’s playing God.

2. We want to look better. “If they know the truth, they’ll think I’m a terrible person.” Well, you are. And when people know the real you, then they can see the real God in you. You are getting in the way of your life pointing to God’s goodness.

3. We want to get what we want. That’s not trusting in God’s provision. We covered that last week.

4. We lie to remain in control of a situation. That’s taking away God’s role.

5. We want to punish someone we’re mad at. That’s also God’s role.

6. We want to be accepted by someone. Peer pressure. But this is creating a relationship not founded on the way it really is. It’s living a lie.

So, I’ve listed these very quickly so you can see plainly that there is usually a selfish or ungodly reason for lying.

But, is there ever a godly reason to lie? Well, St. Augustine said, “Sometimes it’s good to just remain silent.” My dad said this when he told me, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all!” Martin Luther distinguished between harmful, humorous, and helpful lies. The vast majority are harmful. But, he said, there are some that can be told for humor, to make people smile. The key here is that jokes need to be obviously jokes and not cut against someone in the rub. But there are a very small number of helpful lies. In the Bible, the Hebrew midwives lied to the Egyptian slavedrivers saying that they were unable to stop the pregnant Hebrew mothers from giving birth. Rahab was named righteous for lying to the authorities of Jericho looking for God’s spies. But here’s the reality: helpful lies are very rare indeed, far more rare than your rationalizing will allow!

So, here’s a way to curb lying and instead speak truth: ask yourself this question about what you’re going to say: “Is this good to share?”

So, will it lead to good? Does it bless?

Who is benefitting? Here’s a key part of this question! Am I acting out of my own feelings but justifying it with noble label? “She’ll never learn to change her behavior if someone doesn’t put her in her place!” No, that’s me justifying my wanting to retaliate. It’s for me, not her.

Is this good to share...just like this, or can you say it more helpfully?

Is this good to share...right now? Is the timing right? By me? To them? In this way?

Will it do good?

So, here’s our question to ourselves so we can better live out the Ninth Commandment: “Is this good to share?” Does it bless?

We’re going to pause here, to let the Holy Spirit fill us deeply. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, and always leads us to do good. This is God’s intention for our lives, and for how we treat our neighbor. So, we stop to pray: “Come, Holy Spirit! Help us to use our witness, our mouths, our communication, to do good!”

Prayers: Pinweel -Pastor Andrew

Song: “O Breath of Life” -Pastor Andrew

Message: 10 Commandments “Live Free: No Lying (The Spirit of Truth)” -Pastor David
Part 2: Living Free in the Spirit of Truth

Set free to live free. Living Free in the Spirit of Truth. John 16:13a “When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”

There’s an old Jewish proverb about a rabbi who was a man of good character and well respected in his community. Then one day, a new person moved in. For reasons unknown to the rabbi, the new person took a disliking to him and started saying false, horrible things about the rabbi, undermining his credibility and character. This led to a lot of speculation and division in the community; some became suspicious and wary of the rabbi. Soon others starting to make comments, make vague statements and ask questions of suspicion. Rumors spread. Some people started to talk behind his back or treat him coldly.

One day the new person had a change of heart. He went to the rabbi and said, “I’m so sorry for what I’ve been saying about you! I want to make it up to you. What can I do to fix it?”

The rabbi told him, “I want you to go home and take your pillow off of your bed. Go outside on a windy day, tear the pillowcase open and let all the feathers scatter into the wind.”

The man did that, and then returned back to the rabbi. “Is there anything else I can do?” The rabbi said, “Now take your pillow case and go collect back every single feather.”

The man gaped, “But that’s impossible!”

And the rabbi said, “Then you understand.”

Our God is a God of truth. He is a God of help, of building up, of encouraging, of blessing. Yet He allows us the power to speak what we will.

Our God of Truth frees us from the slavery of selfishness, becoming for us the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And then God calls us into a life of truth!

But, just like we are unable to live out the Ten Commandments on our own, so we cannot live out God’s calling to a life of truth on our own. That’s why the Good News is that we are not on our own! Just like God does not leave us in our selfishness and sin but sent Jesus, so God does not leave us wandering around trying to stay on the path of life, but sent to us the Holy Spirit!

This is what we celebrate on Pentecost! God sent the Holy Spirit to rest on—and in—each of His children, so that we can be empowered and led into the way of truth and life. We are not just commanded not to bear false witness, we are filled with the Spirit of Truth so that we *are able to* not bear false witness!

John 14, after verse 6 where Jesus says, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me,” also says, starting in verse 15, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 I will ask the Father, and He will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. 17 This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can’t receive because it neither sees Him nor recognizes Him. You know Him, because He lives with you and will be with you. ... 25 I have spoken these things to you while I am with you. 26 The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you.”

Then, 50 days after Easter, and 10 days after Jesus had ascended back to heaven, the disciples were all gathered back in the Upper Room in Jerusalem.

I want you to hold your pinwheel in one hand, and your flame cookie in the other. Acts 2, verse 2, “Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting.” When the Holy Spirit came on them, they first heard the sound of a blowing wind! Take your pinwheel and put it out your window. See it spin! The wind is a reminder that the Holy Spirit comes on us all like a mighty, rushing wind! So, they heard the sound of wind. What did they see? “They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them.” Look at your flame cookie! Verse 4, “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak [–it affected their speaking, what they said, sharing the truth of God!–] in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.”

Every follower of Jesus is given the Holy Spirit! You have Him, resting on you, and living within you! With your pinwheel flying in the wind, now eat your Pentecost cookie as a way to celebrate how you have the tongue of the Holy Spirit fire in you, *and touching your tongue!* May the sweetness of this cookie remind you that the Holy Spirit in you makes you able to speak sweet words, to share words of life, words of truth, and not bear false witness.

The Good News is that Jesus makes us able *to be* God’s children, but it is also that the Holy Spirit makes us able *to live as* God’s children, in holiness, to follow the Ten Commandments, to speak sweet words of truth, and to live God’s best path for our lives!

The wind blew the feathers of the pillow all around. But the Holy Spirit as wind, blows our words of truth and help and blessing all around, scattering them so widely that we will never be able to see it all, understand their continuing impact, or retrieve them all. We must be careful not to speak words of harm, but thanks to the Holy Spirit, our sweet words of grace are lifted and scattered to bring healing, wholeness, joy and blessing!

Come, Holy Spirit! Blow!

Amen.

Closing Song: *Consuming Fire/Spirit of the Living God* -Sanctify (acoustic)

-Acts 2:1-2

-Pinwheel on chorus

Announcements: -Pastor David

June 7: Outdoor worship (bring lawn chairs!) Graduation Sunday (Armando Lorenzi and Jame Richter) with treats!! Holy Communion. Last Ten Commandments message.

June 14: Outdoor worship (bring lawn chairs!) Confirmation Sunday: 5 confirmands. Treats!! Please wait to be instructed to leave.

Any offerings will be collected as you leave.

Memory Verse -Pastor David

“When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.” -John 16:13a

Benediction -Pastor David

Closing Music -Pastor Andrew

Parking lot guides tell cars when it is their turn to leave.

Offerings collected as people leave.