

**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (Exodus 20:16, Deuteronomy 5:20)**

Framework to interpret and apply the law	Questions to ask	How this applies to the 9th Commandment
<p><b>The context of God's covenant love:</b> The prelude to the giving of the law is "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out the land of slavery." (Exodus 20:2)</p>	<p>How does the truth of God's covenant love and redemption provide a lens through which to view the command?</p>	<p>The law reflects God's character. God is the source of all Truth. There is no deception or falsehood in Him. To present what is true as false or what is false as true is an affront to His character and creation.</p>
<p><b>Biblical Rule:</b> Embed this law in the greater context of Scripture.</p>	<p>How does the whole of Scripture influence my understanding of the command?</p>	<p>Creation is established by God's spoken Word; set to function within parameters for flourishing; Sin alters this, obscuring Truth, setting created order on its head; Restoration is the removal, once again, of all forms of falsehood.</p>
<p><b>Inside/out rule:</b> The law applies to both the hands and the heart.</p>	<p>What would obedience look like at both the hands and heart level? Puritan proverb: "Man's law binds the hands only, God's law binds the heart."</p>	<p>Refers to what is <i>said</i> as well as what is <i>believed</i>.</p>
<p><b>Two-sided rule:</b> Each command has a stated and implicit aspect (+/-).</p>	<p>What does the command forbid? What does the command require? (What should we do? What should we <i>not</i> do?)</p>	<p><b>What's forbidden:</b> "Prideful lying designed to do your neighbor harm and exalt you at his expense." <b>The positive:</b> "Seek our neighbor's good and speak truth to him and about him to this end." (JI Packer, <i>The 10 Commandments</i>)</p>
<p><b>Law of categories:</b> The depth of the command extends beyond the tip of the iceberg being stated- not only the big sins matter, but also those that lead toward them.</p>	<p>How can I appreciate this command as a category of sins/commands related to the stated command?</p>	<p>Includes all forms of hiding truth: lying, deception, half-truths, exaggerations, misleading silence, etc.</p>
<p><b>Brother's keeper rule:</b> We are called to obedience as a community and as a people of God and are to "spur one another on to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24)</p>	<p>Am I so centered on self that I shy away from seeing how I may be called to support others in collectively upholding this command?</p>	<p>The challenge and discomfort of calling others to live in Truth, while seeking to do so ourselves.</p>
<p><b>All at once rule:</b> We cannot perform every positive duty simultaneously, though all prohibited actions should be avoided at all times.</p>	<p>Live the commands remembering that "Love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10); our obedience to any/all of the commands is ultimately to love God and love people.</p>	<p>Truth and love must be held together. (Eph. 4:15, I John 3:18) Truth telling demonstrates allegiance. What truth is owed to whom and when?</p>