

A Good and Pleasant Church: Truthfulness Within the Body
Deuteronomy 24:8-25:4
August 7, 2024

Ninth Commandment - You shall not bear false witness against your brother.

The major idea behind the 9th commandment is fairness. You are defrauding your brother and treating him unfairly and unjustly if you lie about him.

Ephesians 4:25-26 - Why are we to be truth-tellers? Because we are members one of another.

24:8-9 - Just Treatment To Others Through Hygiene

This assumes that they already know about the Laws in Leviticus 13-14 and Moses is exhorting them to be diligent in keeping those laws.

24:10-13 - Just Treatment of the Debtor

When taking something as a security or a pledge for a loan certain rights of the debtor were still to be respected.

24:14-15 - Just Treatment of the Hired Worker

Employers cannot take advantage of hired workers, whether they are Israelites or foreigners. There is to be no oppression of the needy, and each day, their wages are to be paid.

- James 5:4-5

24:16 - Just Treatment of the Family of Criminals

A person is responsible for his own crimes. Ezekiel 18:1-32 speaks against the false idea of inherited guilt.

We should not only not consider the family guilty, but we must show them justice and love.

24:17-22 - Just Treatment of the Poor

Two principles apply here for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

You shall apply the same rules of justice to them as to the rest of society.

Provision had to be made for their food supply.

25:1-3 - Just Treatment in Corporal Punishment

Strict rules had to be followed for administering corporal punishment to Israelites. Even a criminal had rights. They first were due legal process. This was to ensure that the due penalty, and nothing more, was exacted.

They were due a just punishment:

- They were to protect his dignity and not excessively beat him, which would humiliate him to the level of an animal. This was later restricted to 39 to ensure that the limit was not passed.
- The beating was to take place in front of the judge. This ensured two things: first, the judge is more likely to give a proper judgment if he has to witness the punishment. Secondly, he makes sure that it is fair and not excessive.

We must consider our justice system.

25:4 - Just Treatment of Workers

Paul quotes this twice - in 1 Cor. 9:9 and 1 Timothy 5:18

Truthfulness in the Church :: Psalm 24:3-6

The Lord blesses those who live truthful lives :: Psalm 24:3-5

Who you are in private is the same as in public, and vice versa.

To live a truthful life, we must seek God above our own desires :: Psalm 24:6

Whether it be prestige, possessions, or power, there can be a temptation to act deceitfully to attain these. But when the desire of my heart is to live for God as opposed to myself, then I will not give in to these temptations.

To live a truthful life, we must love all people, not just those close to us :: Psalm 24:1

- This passage calls us to be just even when we are sick, to those in debt to us, our hired workers, the family of criminals, the criminal himself, and the poor in your community.

When truthfulness is a characteristic of the church, the church will grow :: Psalm 133:1-2

- This draws our mind back to Ephesians 4:25-26. Be truth-tellers because we are members one of another. Lying, deceitfulness, defrauding, and injustice divides, but truthfulness unites.