

There is Hope Radio
4-13-25-Transcript
Bearing False Witness
PreacherRichD

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Your radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures.

Today's broadcast is on the topic of Bearing False Witness. The ninth commandment of the Ten Commandments is do not bear false witness against your neighbor found in Exodus 20:16.

To bear false witness means to tell something which is not true. In other words, to lie. Neighbor ultimately is anyone I have contact with regardless if they're physically my neighbor or not. We are not to bear false witness, lies, about anyone.

I hope in America, whether individuals believe in the Bible or not, believe in the Ten Commandments or not, that everyone believes that lying is wrong. If not, that is another issue to address. I will actually address it in a moment because it appears some have the mindset that the end justifies the means, which would mean that lying is OK if it gets what I want.

In Exodus 23:1 it states *do not spread false reports, do not help a guilty person by being a malicious witness*. In Proverbs 24 28, it states, *be not a witness against thy neighbor without cause and deceive not with thy lips*. In Proverbs six, we're given a list of seven things that God hates, and one of those is named in verse 19 is a false witness that speaks lies. 1 Timothy 5:13 warns against being *idle and wandering about from house to house and not only idle, but paddlers also in busy bodies speaking things which they ought not to*. So, it should be clear that the Bible states that I would hope all of us would believe it's wrong to lie, it's wrong to bear false witness, it's wrong to do gossip.

Regarding bearing false witness, it's actually more than just lying. Publicly making assumptions as facts is bearing false witness. Publicly making insinuations as facts is bearing false witness. Publicly speaking half-truths, which is slander as facts, is bearing false witness. Publicly spreading gossip is bearing false witness. Publicly claiming to know the heart and morals of a person as if they're facts is bearing false witness. So, if we combine claiming to know the heart and morals of a person, gossiping, speaking half-truths, which is slander, making insinuations, speaking assumptions, and actual lying about a person, it should be obvious that there's much bearing false witness taking place, especially in social media.

Bearing false witness can also occur by remaining silent. When we hear somebody being falsely maligned and we fail to speak up and defend that person's reputation, our silence amounts to giving consent. But of course, some people will continue to remain silent

because of fear of lies being spoken about them. Bullies have a great ability to keep people silent.

I want to address for a second, the end justifies the means mindset. There are those who have the mindset that it is okay to bear false witness for the sake of a cause. I will be honest with you, it boggles my mind how someone, especially someone who claims to be a Christian, will believe it is okay to be deceptive for the sake of a cause they believe in. It is the character of Satan, not God, to knowingly be deceptive. I will say it again, if you claim to be a follower of Christ, and yet you're being deceptive, you're in alignment with Satan, not God, and you need to repent. If you yourself are not being deceptive, but you're making alliances with those who are deceptive, you're aligning with Satan, not God, and need to repent. Actually, you should do more than repent. You should expose deception. But most likely that will not take place because you know the guilty parties will most likely bear false witness against you in revenge. That should be good enough reason to not have any unholy alliances with those who have any form of deception.

I want to address the harm that's caused by bearing false witness. Proverbs 18:8 says, *The words of a tail-bearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.* There is no telling how many people have been driven to defeat and despair by gossip and other forms of bearing false witness. Homes have been wrecked. People have been driven to suicide by slander.

Bearing false witness is ruinous. It is ruinous, of course, to the victim. When you steal a man's property, that's bad enough, but when you steal his good name by slander, that's even worse. Proverbs 22:1 says, *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.*

I want to share a little story that I read. It will really bring home the point of how damaging slander and half-truths and gossip and insinuations and accusations, how much harm they can do. There was a gossip monger who was convicted of a sin when he learned that the man he had lied about was dying. There was a person who was spreading gossip that felt guilty about the gossip he had spread when he learned that the man he had lied about was dying. This liar went to the dying man he had slandered and asked his forgiveness. The victim said, I do forgive you, but I want you to do something. I would like you to cut open this feather pillow, go to the window, and dump all those feathers out the window.

The man was puzzled, but he did it. When he had finished, his victim said, Now I would like you to go and gather up all those feathers. The man replied, Why, that's impossible. I can't do that. The wind has blown those feathers everywhere. There's no way I could ever retrieve all of them. Dying man said, You're right. In a like manner, it's impossible to undo the hurt you've done to me with your gossip. I do forgive you, but my reputation has been irreparably damaged. I believe that's a good story to help us to see what happens when we spread lies, rumors, accusations, and insinuations about individuals.

So, what are some of the solutions to the problem of bearing false witness? So, if you're the bearer of false witness, here's some things that you can do.

A. Get your heart right with God.

Matthew 12:34-35 states, *O generation of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things. An evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.* The first thing to do would be to get your heart right with God.

B. If you're a Christian, repent and make amends. If you're not a Christian, maybe God right now is revealing to you that your heart is messed up, that you have a self-centered, narcissistic heart, that you're a sinner who needs a Savior. Romans 10:9-11 says *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture says, whoever believes on him shall not be ashamed.* So right now would be a good time to say, "Jesus, I need you to be the Lord and Savior of my life." I actually will be praying for you in just a moment.

C. Whether you're a Christian or not, Ephesians 4:25 gives the solution to bearing false witness. *Put off falsehood and speak truthfully.* The solution to lying is to only speak truth. But when speaking truth, make sure you're speaking truth in love.

D. Another solution to bearing false witness is to love people more than your cause. If your cause is more important than people, you are misguided, you are deceived, you have your priorities wrong. If your cause is more important than people, you'll be susceptible to the trickery of Satan and become his puppet to be the accuser of others, especially Christians.

Listen to me. It's time to get real, to get blatantly honest. Some of you listening to this broadcast are like a marionette doll. You're allowing Satan to fill your heart with anger, bitterness, resentment, hatred, and Satan is pulling on your heartstrings and your being controlled by demonic influences. You need deliverance, but you are deceived, so you don't know you need deliverance. So I'm going to pray for you that your eyes will be open.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, the first thing I want to do is I want to pray for those who are spreading rumors, who are spreading false statements, who are turning around and making insinuations and accusations against others, and they do not realize that they're being a ploy of the enemy, that they're being a tool used by the enemy. And they need their eyes open to that and they need deliverance.

So Lord, I pray for those who have somehow been deceived, that the end justifies the means. Those that are deceived, that they can speak truth, but speak it with hatred, with bitterness and resentment. Lord, those who are deceived, that what they're doing is good for their cause or good for the nation or good for the city, for the community, that Lord, you would reveal to them that again, they're being used by the enemy.

I pray for their eyes to be open, for them to be delivered and set free from the control of demonic influences in their life. And that Lord, they would, if they do not know Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior, they would receive him as their Lord and Savior so that he can transform their heart, transform their life. And Lord, if they call themselves a Christian and they are participating in bearing false witness, gossip, and those things, that Lord God, that you bring conviction upon their heart, that they repent.

And they'd go a step further in that repentance. They'd make amends. If they've spoken things, Lord, that are not true publicly, that they repent publicly. That they would confess publicly, repent publicly. That if they have gotten on social media, I'm going to be bold in this, Lord. I'm praying that if they've gotten on social media and they've spread lies about others, they've been a bearer of lies or deception. That Lord, they would repent and publicly make things right. Lord God, I would pray for all of us that we be careful of the things that we speak. That Lord God, that we only speak truth.

And Lord, when we speak truth, we speak it with love. That Father God, we would recognize that people are more important than any causes that we may have. And so Lord, help us to be not bearers of false witness, but be bearers of good news. That Lord God, that we would speak truth about others. That Lord God, that we would encourage and build up others. And that Father God, when there's times to address issues, that we do it in a godly manner that's reflective of your character, Lord God.

And so Lord, will you help us to be the people you've called us to be, the people you want us to be, Lord God. That Lord God, that we'd be people that reflect the character of Christ. And we pray all this in Jesus' name.

As we come to the end of this broadcast, I just want to encourage you. Everything that I speak, I'm trying to speak in love. I'm trying to speak honestly in a very open manner, but I'm trying to also speak and share it in love.

My heart is to see God bring wholeness to our communities, to bring wholeness to our nation. My heart is that we, as Christians, will represent the character of Christ in the way that we do things. I am in no way saying we shouldn't speak truth. Come on, I'm speaking truth every week. So I believe that we need to speak truth. I think we need to speak truth in love.

I think we need to be people who, when we speak truth, that we're not out there to attack, to criticize, to condemn, to beat up, to tear apart, take revenge against the individuals. I believe there's hope. When we speak truth, and we speak truth in love, I believe that we can have hope that there can be positive change that takes place.

Positive change will not take place by us spreading gossip, by us spreading rumors, by us making insinuations, accusations against individuals, mocking individuals. That certainly is not going to bring a positive change. And so this all be focused on bringing positive change in the communities that we live in by not bearing false witness about others.

In next week's broadcast, we're going to talk about *There is Hope Radio*. We've been on the air for several months now, and we need to know if you appreciate what we're doing. And so we really do need to hear from you.

I would love for you to call our toll-free number and share your perspective on *There is Hope Radio*. The good or the bad, whatever is on your heart to share, what topics you would like us to cover, if you'd like us to focus on certain areas, certain realms, just to give some feedback. And we'd love to hear from you.

And then next week what we'll do is we'll share your feedback. I will share on the air those things that you've either said something positive about *There is Hope Radio* or something negative about *There is Hope Radio*, something about myself. I will just share what you have shared. I won't use your name, won't use the recording when you leave the message, but I will share those things. And so if you could call in, I would appreciate it. We would love to get feedback from you.

You can call 1-866-WANT-GOD. That's 1-866-W-A-N-T-G-O-D. That's 1-866-WANT-GOD. Or you can call 1-866-926-8463. That's 1-866-926-8463. Thank you for listening to *There is Hope Radio*.

Thank you for tuning in. You've been listening to PreacherRichD, the radio host of *There is Hope Radio* and the founder of *Creating Futures*.

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