

## A LOOK AT THE NEW TESTAMENT

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One day, in a rant about the church, your friend says, 'You Christians always seem to be disagreeing with each other. Why on earth do you think anybody will listen to what you have to say if you can't even get on with other Christians?' What would you say?

*// Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11*

From this passage, what is so damaging about taking a fellow Christian to court?

In verses 9-10, Paul lists several sinful practices. If we're honest some, of them initially appear to be more 'serious' than others. Why do you think slander is included in the list? What is so damaging about it?

What impact should verse 11 have on the practice of lawsuits in the church? What impact does it have on the way we treat fellow Christians? How can we let this reality change our relationships?

This passage does not say that there will never be disagreements in the church, or that these won't need some form of independent adjudication. But, they do highlight that the gospel totally transforms how we see other people, and therefore the way in which disagree. How should we sort out relationships with other Christians in which we struggle? What might verses 7-8 look like in practice?

It can be so easy to be polite to people on the surface, whilst deep down having wrong attitudes towards them. What is so damaging about this? How can we help each other not to be like this?

Why is the truth of Romans 5:6-11 so powerful when it comes to the way in which we treat others?

**study** notes  
week **ten**

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### WAY IN

*Reflection: As we head towards the end of the ten commandments, the ninth packs a real punch. Take some time to be still before God, saying sorry for ways you haven't lived for him this week, and asking him to fill you with his Spirit to carry on living for him. Ask you look at the Bible now, ask him to show you how you can obey this commandment in your life at the moment.*

Do you think lying is an acceptable practice today? In which common situations do we encounter lying on a regular basis?

Is there such a thing as a 'white lie'?

### A LOOK AT EXODUS

*// Read Exodus 20:16 & Deuteronomy 19:15-21*

The language of the ninth commandment is very much coming from the court room. It is a statement about a witness being called to give evidence. As we will see by looking at Deuteronomy 19 the early Hebrew people had a well developed code of laws. In many ways a system of laws is an indication of the beginnings of what we call civilisation.

In Deuteronomy 19: What safeguard is given to ensure the truth of any evidence given? Also consider Proverbs 14:25 and Proverbs 6:16-19 (look particularly at v 17 and 19)

In the courtroom situation described in Deuteronomy 19: 16-19 what was the retribution for the false witness?

Does the ninth commandment and Deuteronomy 19 simply relate to being a witness and telling the truth in court, or does it imply a need for honesty in all dealings and relationships?

Look at Colossians 3:9-10. What implications does this have for the Christian?

Can there ever be any circumstances when a Christian may tell a lie and if so what might this be? e.g. Christians hiding Jews from the Gestapo during the Second World War. See Exodus 1:19 and Jeremiah 38:24-27

The commandment says do not give false testimony against your neighbour. This would have meant anyone who was a Hebrew. How did Jesus change this understanding? See Luke 10:25-37. Also see Leviticus 19:11 and Leviticus 19:18b

### QUOTE TO REFLECT ON

*A commandment that forbids me to lie compels me to be truthful. It obligates me to be faithful to what I think, what I believe, what I feel - and so to be faithful to the person with whom I am communicating....Respect for truthfulness [however] does not compel us to reveal our minds to everyone or on every occasion....[But] the commandment sends us into all human relationships with a bias toward truthfulness. (Lewis Smedes)*

How can help each other and ourselves to be more truthful?