

Commandment 9

Exodus 20:16 – “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour”.

Witness Oath

I swear by Almighty God that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

What is truth?

- ▶ Factually true or false
- ▶ Trustworthy
- ▶ Dependable
- ▶ Consistent
- ▶ Reliable
- ▶ Faithful
- ▶ Reflecting an upright character
- ▶ Is the bedrock of relationship



God's heart for creation – thrive!

God's Character

- ▶ Truth and Justice
- ▶ Trustworthy
- ▶ Dependable, Consistent, Reliable, Faithful
- ▶ Merciful and Loving
- ▶ Bringer of Peace



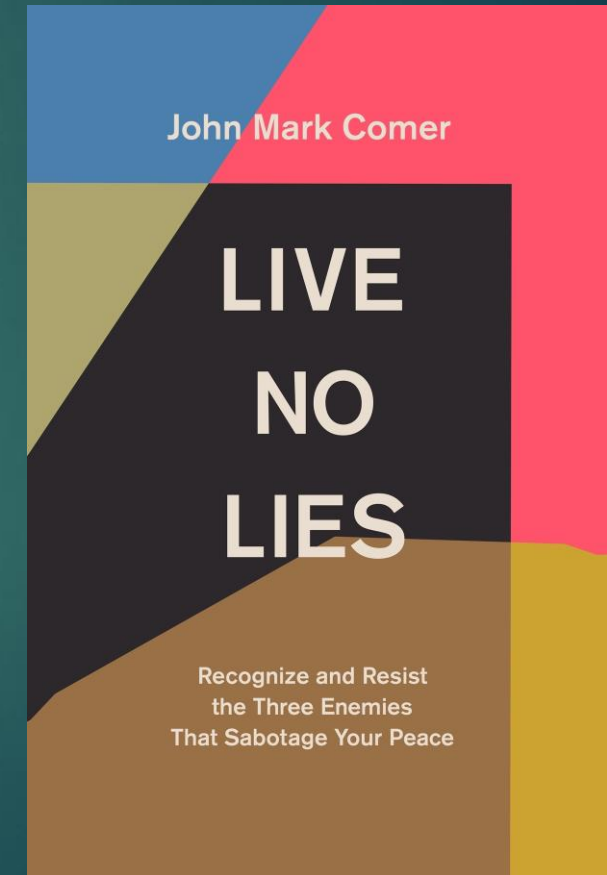
Us humans

- ▶ Made in God's image
- ▶ But marred by the fall
- ▶ Flawed character

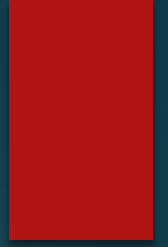
We are in a spiritual battle



Satan, the Father of Lies



Gen 3 – Satan's strategy



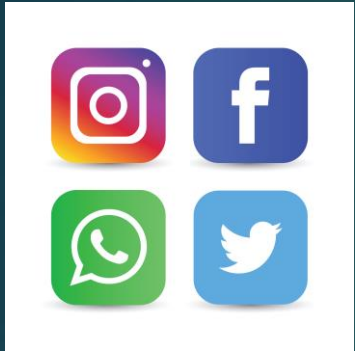
Steps to rebellion

- ▶ Sow doubt
- ▶ Misinformation/lies
- ▶ Appeal to desire
- ▶ Encourage disobedience

Consequences

- ▶ Fear of exposure
- ▶ Blame
- ▶ Shame
- ▶ Pain
- ▶ Separation
- ▶ Devious behaviour

Attacked by.....



Misleading

- ▶ Economical with the truth
- ▶ Deliberate evasion
- ▶ Partial truth
- ▶ Silence
- ▶ Spin doctors
- ▶ Fake News
- ▶ Conspiracy
- ▶ Smear opposition
- ▶ Destroys trust

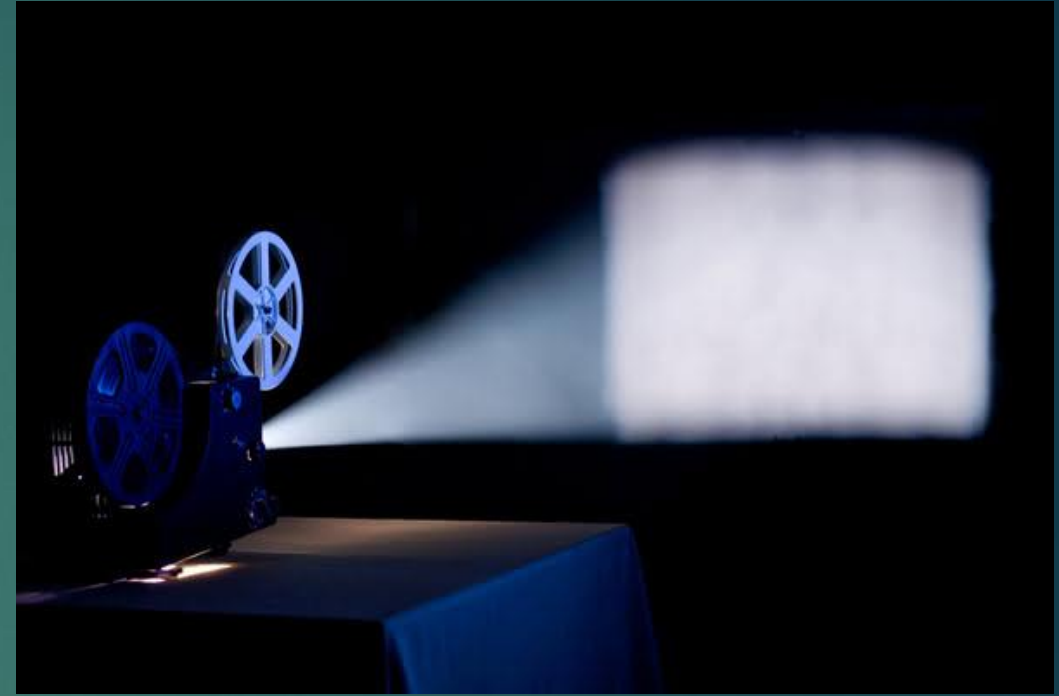


Letter vs Spirit of the Law



Why do we lie?

- ▶ Shame over our vulnerabilities
- ▶ Controlling what others think of us
- ▶ Fear of being unmasked and seen for who we really are
- ▶ Avoid taking responsibility
- ▶ Competitive for attention and value in others' estimation



Consequences

- ▶ Loss of firm foundation
- ▶ “My truth”
 - ▶ Rationality
 - ▶ Feelings
 - ▶ Individualism
 - ▶ Selfishness
- ▶ A cloak for falsehood
- ▶ Loss of community and trust



Legalism vs transformation



No more hiding

It ain't much,
but it's all I got.

It's all I
ever wanted.



Hope for restoration

- ▶ Made in God's image
- ▶ Loved by Him
- ▶ The door opened to restoration through Jesus
- ▶ Transformation



**We were
made in the
image of
God!**

**We are
broken in
Adam but
restored in
Jesus**

Pattern for a rescued life – true liberty



Become more like the one we worship

Why does it matter?

- ▶ What is the purpose of the Law?

- ▶ Build trust
- ▶ Relationship
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Love and care

- ▶ Restored image

- ▶ Love your neighbour as yourself
– reflecting God's character
- ▶ Overflow from our relationship
with God

Next steps....

Bad tree



Good tree



Maker's instructions

- ▶ T Is it **T** rue?
- ▶ H Will it **H** elp?
- ▶ I Will it **I** nspire?
- ▶ N Is it **N** ecessary?
- ▶ K Is it **K** ind?

