

God's Concern for Truth

Deuteronomy 5:20

Introduction

Property Damage vs. Reputation Damage

Deuteronomy 5:20

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Exposition

The fundamental concern of this command is truth. God is the God of truth, and He expects His people to be people of truth. The specific prohibition here is dealing with false testimonies in the court setting, but it has implications for all forms of truth in society.

From a negative standpoint, this passage forbids all forms of gossip, slander, backbiting, deceit, and lying against others. From a positive standpoint, this passage encourages honesty, encouragement, kindness, and support for others. If any society is going to flourish, truthfulness must be valued and practiced. Thus, as we saw last week, we see again this week, this commandment expresses love for God and for one's neighbor, which is the summary of God's law.

Conclusion

Because God is truth, His people ought to be characterized by truth.

Implications

- 1) A concern for truth will not foster skepticism toward others.
- 2) A concern for truth will receive correction.
- 3) A concern for truth will guard our speech (James 3:1-18)
- 4) A concern for truth will speak the truth (John 17)