

“God is Great, Beer is Good, &  
People Are Crazy”:  
The Ten Commandments

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Grad & Career Fall '11

# Application: Donation Drive

- World Relief Durham:
  - We're low on items for refugees: pillows (\$3 at Target), light bulbs, lamps, can opener, trash bags, trash cans, sharp knives, deodorant, toilet paper.

# Desire for Truth

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The Ninth Commandment:

“You shall not give false witness against your neighbor.”

# 1. The Power of God's Words

## Genesis 1:1-29

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

6 And God said...<sup>9</sup> And God said...<sup>11</sup> And God said...<sup>14</sup>  
And God said...<sup>20</sup> And God said...<sup>22</sup> God blessed them  
and said...<sup>24</sup> And God said...<sup>26</sup> And God said...<sup>28</sup> God  
blessed them and said to them...<sup>29</sup> Then God said...

# 1. The Power of God's "Word"

## John 1:1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## 2. The Power of Our Words as Image Bearers

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” –  
Genesis 1:26

“The tongue has the power of life and death.”  
– Proverbs 18:21

*Question: If we are to create, rule, and bless through our words to bring life, how do we do that in every day life?*

### 3. The Power of Our False Words

#### Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God *really* say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?**”

*Question: What are some lies people feel justified telling but often is a reflection of character?*

### 3. The Power of Our False Words

Proverbs 25:18

18 Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow  
is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor.

"What, then, is a lie? I would say that a lie is a word or act that intentionally deceives a neighbor in order to hurt him. It is a false witness *against* a neighbor. That excludes untruths that come from edifying devices, honest mistakes, honest fictions, games, magic tricks, and, for the most part, jokes." - John Frame

### 3. The Power of Our False Words

“I am my own best propaganda machine.” – Didi Wong

- *What does Facebook say about you and me?*

# *Qui ne se Grime Pas* – Georges Rouault



(from Frank and Dorothy Getlein, *George Rouault's Miserere*. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1964, p. 43.)

*Who among us does not wear a mask?* Rouault wrote sometime earlier, “One day I noticed how, when a beautiful day turns to evening, the first star shines out in the sky. It moved me deeply — I don’t know why — and it marked the beginnings of poetry in my life. A gypsy caravan halted at the side of the road, a weary old horse nibbling stunted grasses, an old clown patching his costume — that was how it began. We all wear a spangled dress of some sort, but if someone catches us with the spangles off, as I caught that old clown, oh! the infinite pity of it!”

### 3. The Power of Our False Words

We learn to live out of a false self early on, and it is nurtured in seminary. Seminary failures are condemned to lesser ministries – working with the poor, or in hospice, or in a part-time rural setting. The really sexy pastors get the good gigs, and get profiled on their seminary magazine cover. They learned to iron their clothes by themselves early on, and learned to smile in a way that would make old women melt.

– Chuck DeGroat

### 3. The Power of Our False Words

- “What masks do you wear?”
- How do they hurt you and your relationships with God and others?

## 4. The Power of God's Redeeming & Affirming Words

### **Matthew 3:17**

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

### **Matthew 25:21**

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

## 4. The Power of God's Redeeming & Affirming Words

"But what we really need is God. What we really need is somebody who loves us so much we don't worry about death, about our hair thinning, about drivers pulling out in front of us on the road, about whether people are poor or rich, good looking or ugly, about whether we feel lonely or about whether or not we are wearing clothes. We need this; we need this so we can love other people purely and not for selfish gain, we need this so we can stop kicking ourselves around, we need this so we can lose all self awareness and find ourselves for the first time, not by realizing some dream, *but by being told who we are by the only Being who has the authority to know, by that I mean the Creator.*" - Donald Miller, *Searching for God Knows What*.

## 5. The Power of Our Redeeming & Affirming Words

<sup>20</sup> My son, pay attention to what I say;  
turn your ear to my words.

<sup>21</sup> Do not let them out of your sight,  
**keep them within your heart;**

<sup>22</sup> for they are life to those who find them  
and health to one's whole body.

<sup>23</sup> Above all else, guard your heart,  
**for everything you do flows from it.**

- Proverbs 4:20-23

# 5. The Power of Our Redeeming & Affirming Words

## Ephesians 4 – The Apostle Paul on our Words

- <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.
- <sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.
- <sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

