

10 at Work

Exploring the Ten Commandments and
their application for today's workplace

Talk 2

Setting the scene

Remaining Honest

You shall not
give false testimony
against your neighbour.

Exodus 20:16

Harmless
or
Devastating?

The
Problem
of **Trust**

Words

- Statistics are ‘massaged’
- Data are ‘adjusted’
- Expenses are ‘inflated’
- Financial reporting is ‘inaccurate’
- Product defects are ‘overlooked’
- Excuses are ‘manufactured’

Words

- Targets or deadlines ‘slide’
- Pensions are ‘mis-sold’
- Petrol stocks are ‘overstated’
- Difficult issues are ‘evaded’
- Mergers & acquisitions are ‘over-promoted’
- Funds have suffered ‘a temporary shortfall’

Words & Actions

Reputation Management

Workplace Scenarios

- Gossip
- Character assassination
- Office politics
- Negotiation
- Flattery
- Briefing
- Research/analysts opinions
- Evidence
- Corporate Culture

Choices

Words
of Truth

We lie because:

- We are afraid, so we fight;
- We are exposed, so we cover up;
- We are hurt, so we retaliate;
- We are proud, so we put ourselves in a better light;
- We are self-centred, so we gain for ourselves, even if someone else loses.

Grace
Truth

Love in action

- Be filled with the truth
- Maintain restraint
- Practice truth-telling
- Confront lies (nicely)
- Be an encourager
- Cultivate regular forgiveness

Living Counter-culturally

For reflection

- Do you find it hard to resist joining in with gossip? Why?
- What do colleagues say about you when you try not to join in? How do you deal with that?
- Is there a common question in your work (like to the example of the timber trader) that you find difficult to answer? How might you answer it differently tomorrow?
- If you are accused of some failure, how do you react?
- How can you cultivate the habit of always answering positively when asked your opinion about a colleague?