

## **Honesty**

### **Leviticus 19:11**

*LeRoy Eims*

“Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another” (Leviticus 19:11).

Last night my wife and I went shopping for a raincoat. We visited a number of stores and finally found the one that was the right size, style, color and price. After my wife made her selection I told the clerk we'd take it and wrote out a check.

The clerk took the check and my driver's license and made the proper notations. Then she made a phone call to some central security office that takes the information and gives the OK. The clerk returned and asked for my license again.

It seemed that she had to have it in her hand when she talked to the mysterious someone on the phone. After quite a long delay the clerk returned with the license, said all was in order, gave us the package and apologized for the hassle. I assured her I understood. And I did. But through it all it occurred to me that if the whole world lived by the 12 words in this verse it would be a different world altogether. These 12 words, if applied, would make life so much simpler.

This morning a letter came in the mail asking me to call the Denver office of an insurance company with regard to an accident to our car. It was smashed into the other night as it was parked in front of the house. The lady on the phone told me they would send an appraiser to look at the damage and then they would issue a check.

I asked her what I should do if the check didn't cover the cost. She said to have the body shop contact the appraiser and they would make an adjustment. Fine. Then I asked her what I was supposed to do if the check was too much, if it was more than the body shop charged us. There was this long pause and then she said in a surprised and yet subdued voice, “You know, I've never been asked that question before.”

Is honesty really the best policy? It seems that the world in general would agree in principle, but disagree in practice. In this verse the Lord forbids stealing, cheating and lying.

As Christians we abide by these commands. And yet we live in a world that is out to get us. Our house has been broken into. We've had two bikes stolen from out in front of the house.

In grade school I spent my Saturdays in the city dump collecting copper, tin and aluminum to sell to the junk dealer in Council Bluffs. I remember the shock I had when I discovered he was cheating and lying to me. I was trying to get enough money together to buy a suit to go to my Aunt's funeral, and the guy cheated me out of about half of what I should have gotten. I cried for over an hour.

What is our reaction to all this? What does the kid in school do when he has to compete for grades with kids who cheat? The answer is simple. We remember what God has said and live by it. “Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.”

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