



TEACHINGS OF JESUS

CATECHETICAL TEXTBOOK SERIES OF THE SYRO - MALABAR CHURCH

Lesson 9

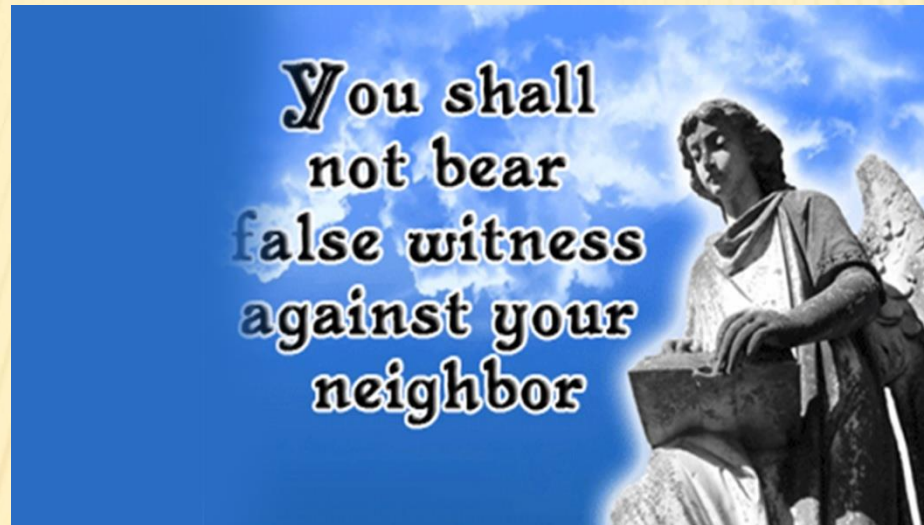
SPEAK THE TRUTH





In the letter to the Ephesians St. Thomas says: So, from now on there must be no more lies. You must speak the truth to one another, since we are all parts of one another (Eph 4:25). Since God is true, we, God's children, are also called to live in truth. (Rom. 3:4). **The Eight commandment-" you shall not bear false witness"** reminds us to keep away from all kinds of lies, and to speak and act always truthfully.

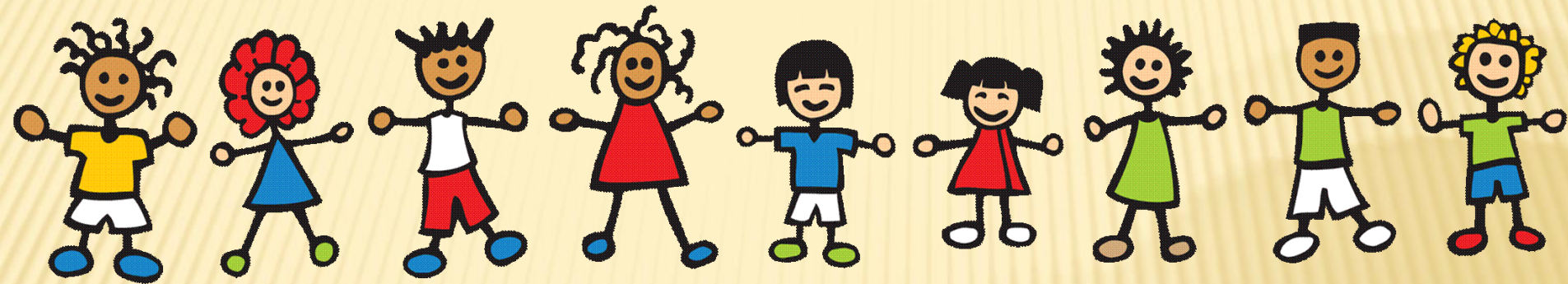
RELEVANCE OF TRUTH



Each one of us is obliged to be truthful in our thoughts, words and deeds. The basis of human life is mutual trust. “ Let your words be yes, ‘yes’ or ‘no’, ‘no’. Everything else comes from the evil one.” (Mt.5:37). We must show such faithfulness to God and man. If we can’t believe anyone, what a difficult situation will it be?

Each man is created with the divine ability to be honest. God is the fullness of truth. Jesus said: “I am the Truth” (Jn. 14:6). Those who receive Jesus and live in Jesus are bound to be honest in their lives.

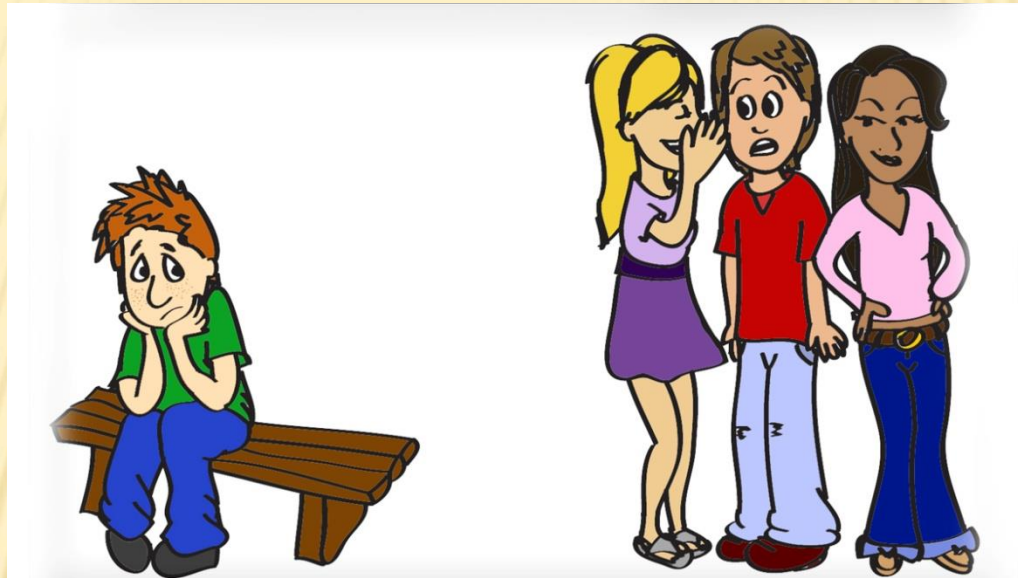
BEAR WITNESS TO TRUTH



Jesus said to Pilate that he came into this world to bear witness to the truth. It is the duty of Christians to bear witness to truth. All statements against truth are lies. Others have the right to know the truth. To deny it is equal to telling lies. If we consciously speak against our knowledge and conviction for will vary according to the seriousness of the matter and the circumstances. Still we should avoid even small lies. Telling lies destroys the authenticity of the person. When we state something against truth, especially in courts, it becomes false witness. It is a mortal sin.

SINS AGAINST TRUTH

DENIGRATION



Denigration is spreading things about a person which has a secret nature or which is against truth. Very light acts of such a nature have created great loss. Those who do that, and those who encourage and enjoy that sin against the eighth commandment.

CALUMNY



The purpose of calumny is to cause quarrel or enmity between two persons. Such people spread news which may or may not be said to other people and thus causes to be a means of quarrel. There are people who do it for enjoyment and for one's own interest. It is a serious sin.

LIE



Telling lies is speaking against one's own knowledge and conviction. Others listen to our words with the conviction that our words are true. When we say lie, the listener gets cheated. To hide the truth in conversation ie, to make false statements is violation of the eighth commandment.

REVEALING SECRETS



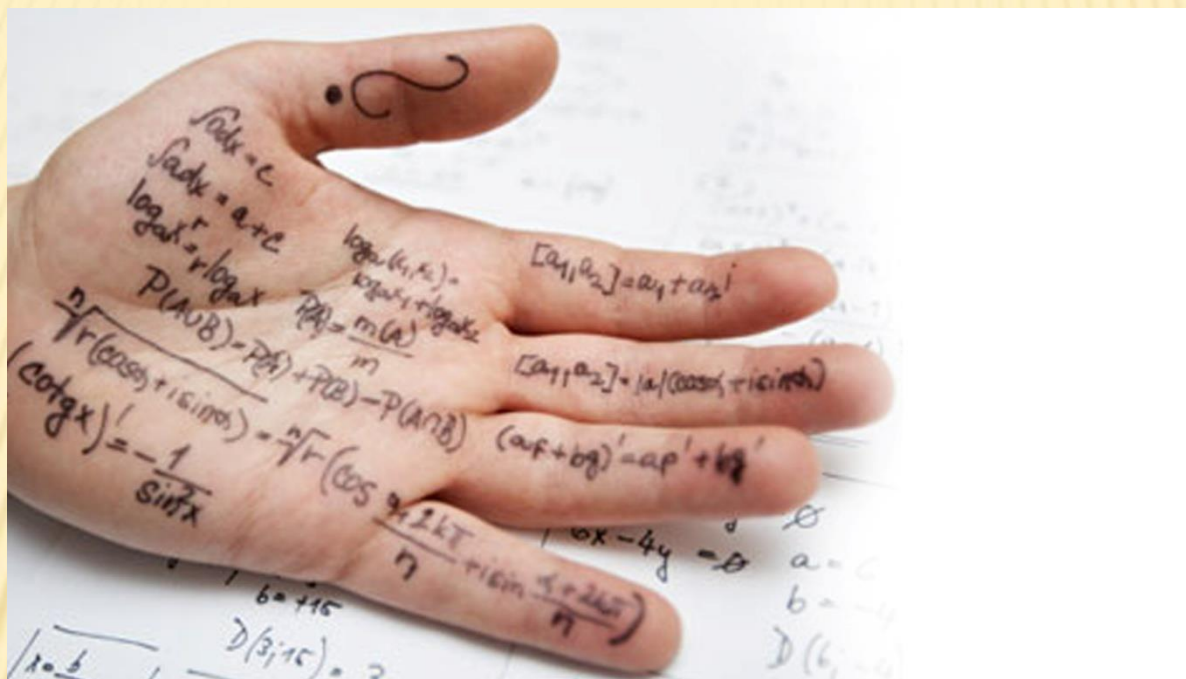
Nobody has the right to enter the privacy of others without their permission. We are bound to respect the secrets of others. It is wrong to peep, to overhear purposely, to read another's letters without their permission etc. If we happen to know any secret about others, we have the obligation to keep it secret. If there is a possibility of more danger if we not reveal it, then we can reveal. **But the priest should never reveal confessional secrets.**

DEFAMING PERSONS



It is a grave sin to attempt consciously to spoil the good name of others by defaming, we accuse a person falsely and bear witness to it.

COPYING IN THE EXAMINATION



Copying is a sin against truth. Here, the student gives a false impression to the teacher that he had studied when he actually did not and thus gains undeserving marks. Both copying and helping to copy in the exam are equally sinful. An honest student will never copy in the exam.

FLATTERY



Flattery is the use of words in attributing certain virtues or talents, which a person, in fact, does not have and the act of encouraging and confirming the evil deeds of others. It becomes evil because it does not correct the mistakes of others, instead it encourages them to remain in their sinful state.



The moral problem in telling lies is the violation of one's rights. Man has the right to get correct knowledge. When we tell lies, this right to know the truth is violated. When we tell lies and when we do not tell the truth at the right time this right is violated. When the right to know the truth is violated, social life become difficult. Hence, we must be truthful for a happy social life and to be justified before Good. Society respects people who are honest in thoughts word and deed. Let us bear witness to truth throughout our lives.



LET US PRAY

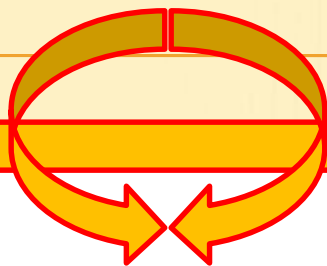
Jesus, the truth, bless us to bear witness to truth through
our life



LET US READ AND NARRATE

Jn.8:31-33





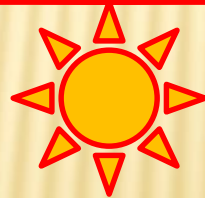
WORD OF GOD FOR GUIDANCE

“ Be sure, then, you are never spiteful or deceitful or hypocritical or envious and critical of each other.”

(1 Pet.2:1)

LET US DO:

Discuss how you can make your friend who has the habit of telling lies aware of it?



MY RESOLUTION

I will keep honesty as one of the values of life.

FIND OUT THE ANSWER

1. We are bound to be honest, why?
2. Telling lies is a sin, why?
3. What is the seriousness of copying in the exam?
4. What are the evils against truth?
5. How does telling lies become a violation of rights?



THANK YOU