

DON'T LIE

Deuteronomy 5:20

Introduction: Don't lie! Who would ever admit to speaking a lie? Know anybody who has not lied at one time or other? Innocent answers to innocent questions sometimes are lies. We deliberately avoid telling the truth and lie instead in some situations. Ever have someone ask you, "how are you doing?" and you answered, "just fine" while all the time you felt awful. Or, "how do I look?" and you answered, "just fine" but actually the person didn't look very good at all. Many jokes are told about husband and wives questions and answers where a lie is the best way out of the question. "Does this dress make me look fat?" "How did you like the casserole?" There are "little white lies" and downright ugly lies. So what's the big deal about speaking a lie every once in a while?

I. WHAT IS A LIE?

1. God says in Deuteronomy 5:20: *"Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbor."*
2. In God's eyes lying is a form of deceit and he forbids us to do it. God forbids us slandering each other, making empty accusations without true facts, thus speaking an untruth.
3. We often call a "lie" other names, in an attempt to hide the real meaning or to lessen in our own minds what we have said that is not true.
4. Lying is perhaps the most common sin among us. From the diaper to the grave, we lie.

II. WHY DO WE LIE?

1. Satan told the first lie in the Garden of Eden and soon afterward Adam and Eve lied to God.
2. Why exactly do we lie? Because we are afraid. Therefore we hide behind our lies and hope that the truth never comes out.
 - We fear of being rejected or seen as less than we want others to see us as.
 - We constantly change our image to fit what we want others to think (men puffing out their chests, women putting on extra make-up) by lying.
 - We lie to feel safer about lying to and about others.

III. HOW DO WE LIE?

1. **Proverbs 6:16-19:** *"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him: - haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush to evil, a false witness who pours out lies, and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers."*
 - Of these seven things that God hates, four have to do with lying.

2. Our way of life today seems quite content to distort the truth - lie.
 - In advertising, politics, business, personal relationships.
 - Lying has become a way of life in most circles of our generation.
 - Everyone of us distorts the truth at some time and point.
 - Lying is about as natural as breathing.

3. How do we lie?
 - Obviously with our mouths and tongues with half-truths, untruths, words that are opposite of truth and actuality.
 - By manipulation such as acting in ways that covers our real motives or who we really are.
 - Trying to shame a person into doing this or that for the good of somebody else.
 - By telling a made up story in order to get someone in trouble or to make someone look bad.
 - By stirring up trouble like: "I just thought you might like to know....."
 - Even by not speaking up - refusing to correct what we know is wrong or incorrect.

IV. WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE "WHITE" LIE?

1. Why does God make such a big deal out of not telling the whole truth?
 - Our very security depends upon the truthfulness of God. What if God told little white lies?
 - ***"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?"***

2. Lying is the language of Satan's invention. It is of Satan, himself. (***John 8:42-45***)
 - Remember what Satan told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden about God?
 - Satan continue to tell us the same thing and we continue to do as Adam and Eve.
 - To lie is to speak Satan's language and indicates that we are a part of his family.

3. Lying is foreign to God's family and to the new nature God gives Christians. (***Colossians 3:9-10***)
 - To those who belong to Satan's family, lying is a normal way of life.

4. Lying destroys people's lives. It hurts those lied about or to and it hurts the one lying.
 - ***James 3:5-8***
 - A lying tongue energized by Satan is one of the most destructive forces on earth.
 - Countless lives have been ruined by careless words, thoughtless rumors, malicious slander and outright lies.

5. Lying destroys the one doing the lying.
 - What is real and what is not real becomes mixed up.
 - After so long, the liar believes what he/she is saying.

V. HOW DOES A PERSON STOP LYING?

1. There is only one thing that will draw the Christian out and remove the need to lie.
 - An atmosphere of security, a safe place, acceptance.

- God, the Father, Jesus Christ and His Church is the only thing that will bring a Christian out of lying.
 - ***Colossians 1:19-23***
2. God has made a place of safety and acceptance for all who place their trust in Jesus Christ.
 - Through what Jesus has done, the believer has been reconciled and made acceptable to God.
 - To know what you have accepted by the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, is enough!
 - So what is there to hide from? Who do we need to impress? (***Romans 8:31-39***)
 3. When the believer has no need to protect him/herself, then there is no more any need to lie to God or anyone else.

CONCLUSION:

1. Face it! A lie is deceit, manipulation, deception.
2. Remember the One you really need to please already accepts you.
 - Your belief in Jesus has caused you to be accepted by those who really matter - God, the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
3. If you are a believer, you are no longer a member of Satan's family and have no need to speak his language of lies any longer.
 - ***Colossians 3:12-14***
4. There is no reason for a Christian to have to lie!
 - We don't belong to Satan anymore.
 - We are totally accepted by almighty God and His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - No one is perfect down here and we are not in any competition with anyone for anything that really matters.
5. To sum "lying" up: lying is forbidden by God and is one of the sins He hates the most.