

*"Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly." Hebrews 13:18 KJV*



It's interesting how many other names we have for lies; fib, excuse, being nice, and etc., when they are just plain lies. A partial truth is a lie even if 99% true! We even make others lie for us. How about this one? "Tell them I'm not here!" If your nose grew a hair's breadth each time you were dishonest, how long would your nose be? Most excuses are lies. The reason we avoid Truth is because the Truth hurts mostly ME. You may be brutally honest about other's faults, but do you apply the same rigor to your own? The best rule of honesty is: Tell the Truth or say, *"The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and IT IS SET ON FIRE OF HELL."* Rationalizing sin in your life or excusing it is simply lying to or deceiving yourself! *"Let no man deceive himself."* If you're dishonest with yourself, you'll be dishonest with others. Honesty must begin with the desire to be honest. You don't have to teach a child to lie. Honesty is totally unnatural. It must come from God. To acquire this desire requires a love of God, not a love of His benefits. *"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."* When a person falls in love, they want what their lover wants. Their desires change, because the priority of their heart is their lover not themselves. If all you want from God are His benefits, you are just plain covetous. A dog is a prime example. They aren't interested in you; they want what you give. Don't believe me? Try petting your dog with food in your hand. They come when you call, because they associate it with a benefit; a scratch, a meal, or to avoid displeasure. Call your dog to you and do or say nothing and see how long they tarry. Are we that way with God? Do we obey Him simply to gain a benefit or avoid chastisement? Would we obey Him if He gave us nothing? Honest answers to these questions reveal your true relationship with God. If we really get to know God through His written Word, we will fall in love with Him. If you aren't in love with God, you don't know Him!

Willing to live in honesty,  
Rejecting all that pleasures me,  
To cling to Christ in liberty,  
And live with Him eternally! -CGP

In the "Parable of the Sower," the "good ground" is a person with *"an honest and good heart, having heard the Word, keeps it, and brings forth fruit with patience. Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."* Patience is the earmark of trust and compassion. When courting, it matters little where couples go or what they do as long as it's together, because they're in love. Do you really love God, or are you just dating? Would you be content with a Model-T when you could have a Lamborghini? Be honest! Would you be content with a dividend when you could own the company? The same reasoning applies to knowing God. His power alone is enough to dazzle us for eternity! And then there is His unconditional Love and Grace! God wants to be with you, so why isn't the feeling mutual? Why be content with His gifts when you could live in His presence? Be His companion and friend?

*"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ," Philippians 3:7-8 KJV*