

“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:” 1 Peter 3:21 KJV



We are such expert liars we even purposely deceive ourselves by condoning or excusing a lie with reason. “I couldn’t hurt their feelings! It was just a fib! I didn’t really mean it! I was just kidding!” And thus we justify one of God’s most hated sins of by giving ourselves a feel-good reason! *“Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are His delight. Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.”*

Lying is perhaps the most besetting sin of the human race! It slips effortlessly from our tongues before we think, spawned in the depths of desire to be accepted of men rather than of God! *“The fear of man layeth a snare!”* You may retort, “I fear no man!” and yet as soon as the phone rings you utter, “Tell them I’m not here,” not only lying yourself, but causing another to lie as well! Why are we so reluctant to be honest with ourselves and others? Do we so fear rejection we deceive ourselves into believing we are only avoiding inconvenience? How could the Truth inconvenience honesty? We lie most often to ourselves, manufacturing elaborate tapestries of good intentions and reasons for our deception. The road to Hell is paved with good intentions! *“Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.”* It is one thing to be honest with God who already knows tomorrow’s thoughts, but quite another to be honest with man, especially ourselves! I do not have to reveal every secret to every man, but I must strive to *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD.”* What occupies thought determines speech. Thoughts occupied with self and desire, utter lies! Thoughts occupied with meditations of God’s Word speak honestly. I need not answer every question or every phone call. Silence is better than lying. God’s Word says, *“The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity...it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men.”* Keeping your thought life focused upon God’s Word through meditation and prayer will bridle your tongue.

Truth alone must conscience prove,
If I would speak to others true,
My thoughts must follow Truth and love,
If I would please my Lord above. ~CGP

Lying is unbelief, because it denies Truth! One lie begets another. You cannot tell just one lie, because a lie is the first step on the downwardly spiraling rollercoaster of sin and death! *“For the wages of sin is death.”* You do not have to teach children to lie. It spontaneously springs from their condemned carnal nature. The position of the world is that children do not lie, but God’s Word says man is shapen in iniquity; and conceived in sin. Think before you speak, “Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?” If it cannot satisfy all three parameters, say something else or say nothing at all. Let the standard of God’s Word order your words.

“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.” Titus 1:15 KJV