

Let's Be Honest!

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if everyone were honest and always told the truth?

No-one would be afraid of being cheated anymore.

Manufacturers would no longer mislead consumers with false and deceptive advertising.

Politicians would not make promises they knew they could not keep.

You could trust all your friends to tell the truth and keep their word.

How refreshing such a society would be.

The Christian Bible, our Handbook For Life, has a great deal to say about telling the truth.

In this article you will learn something about your basic nature and the character of God.

You will discover who the first liar was and examine the first lie recorded in the Christian Bible.

You will learn of the many benefits that automatically come to you as you build a reputation of being truthful.

1. What are some of the qualities and character of your Creator God?

Deuteronomy 32:4 [King James] *“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”*

Your Creator God is a God of truth.

Revelation 15:3 [NIV] *“and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: “Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.”*

Everything about your Creator God is right and truthful.

Titus 1:2 [NIV] *“a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,”*

It is **not** in God's nature to ever tell a lie.

Hebrews 6:18 [NIV] *“God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.”*

God reveals Himself as a God of truth. You can always rely on what He says.

God can be trusted to keep all of His promises, because He has willed **not to lie**.

2. Did Jesus the Son of God always speak the truth?

Matthew 22:16 [NIV] *“They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are.”*

Jesus Christ exemplified the character and nature of God the Father throughout His human life on earth.

John 1:1-3, 14 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

This is because He was also God, the “Word” or spokesman of God the Father.

3. What is the origin of the Christian Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16 [NIV] *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,”*

The Christian Bible is the standard by which we judge everything else that is written claiming to be true.

As it is directly inspired by our Creator God, the Greek word translated “God breathed” is “*thēōpnēustōs*” which is also translated “*inspired*.”

2 Peter 1:20-21 [NIV] *“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

The Greek word translated “prophecy” is “*prōphētēia*” signifying the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God.

The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote the original scriptures.

The prophet of the Old Covenant did predict future events, in the main the coming of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 [NIV] *“Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.”*

Under the New Covenant the teacher has taken the place of the prophet, Jesus Christ “*perfection*” has come.

Prophecy is now one of the gifts given to human beings by the Holy Spirit. [**1 Corinthians 12:10**]

The difference between Old Testament prophets and New Testament teachers [translated mainly “*prophets*”] is the Old Testament prophet was a direct revelation of the mind of God for that occasion or some future occasion.

The New Testament prophet/teacher’s message is gathered from the completed revelation of God contained in the Holy Spirit inspired scriptures found in the Christian Bible.

2 Peter 2:1-3 [NIV] *“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.”*

Peter is hearing and seeing what Jesus Christ had predicted.

Matthew 24:11 [NIV] *“and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.”*

A prediction of what would happen especially just before Jesus Christ's second coming, see the context of this statement.

Mark 13:22-23 [NIV] *“For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect, if that were possible. So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.”*

Is it possible that you as a Christian could be deceived?

Yes.

So convincing will be the arguments and “*proofs*” from deceivers in the end times, it will be difficult **not** to fall away from Christ.

If you are well prepared Jesus says that you can remain faithful, if **not** prepared you will fall away.

How do you penetrate the disguises of false teachers?

If they have made predictions do they come true or do they have to revise them to fit what has already happened?

Mark 13:21 [NIV] *“At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it.”*

If you are well versed with the inspired scriptures you will see what they say is false.

Does their teaching utilise a small section of the Christian Bible neglecting the rest, because it does not reflect what they want you to believe.

Does their teaching contradict what the Christian Bible says about God and Jesus Christ His Son?

1 John 4:1-3 [NIV] *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. **This is the spirit of the antichrist**, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”*

False teachers are inspired by a wrong spirit **not** the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 [NIV] *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

Satan has his own teachers who are masquerading as teachers of Jesus Christ.

Who is “*glorified*” by their teaching, Jesus Christ or their leader's own standing in the eyes of other human beings?

Does their teaching promote hostility towards other Christians?

Certain Christian denominations insist that they are the one and only Christian church, excluding all other denominations.

How can we recognise a true Christian or Christian church?

Romans 8:8-9 [NIV] *“Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.**”*

Without the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit that dwelt in and worked in the human Jesus Christ from the moment of His conception, you are **not** a Christian.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

If the members of a church are **not** developing in their lives the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit and being led by their ministers to do so, that is **not** a true Christian church.

To lie is the very opposite of God’s nature and character

Matthew 5:48 [NIV] *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

God’s ultimate goal for all human beings is to be like Him in character, part of that character is to always be honest, telling the truth.

Intentionally misleading or deceiving others does **not** show the true love and concern that God wants us to be developing in our lives, towards all other human beings.

Who was responsible for telling the first lie?

Genesis 3:1-5 [NIV] *“Now **the serpent** was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” **“You will not surely die,”** the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

Satan symbolically represented in the scripture by a serpent [read **Revelation 12:9**] told the first recorded lie made to a human being.

John 8:44-47 [NIV] *“**You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.**”*

Satan, the devil is introduced by Jesus Christ as the father of all who tell lies.

In contrast all who belong to God always tell the truth as Jesus Christ does.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“**Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.**”*

Jesus Christ is the personification of all that is true.

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

Satan is the “god of this age” and continues to lie as he did to Eve about what God has said, today in His Word the Christian Bible.

Proverbs 6:16-19 [NIV] *“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 into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.”*

Lying is among the things that God hates, because of the way it destroys the character of the person who is lying and hurts all others who are involved.

Even so-called “white lies” fall into the same category as outright blatant lies.

Telling a “white lie” is a false statement made to another person with the intention to mislead.

Proverbs 12:22 [NIV] *“The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.”*

God is well pleased with all who only deal truthfully.

Will special benefits come to those who choose to speak and live by the truth?

Proverbs 3:3-4 [King James] *“Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.”*

You will find favour in the sight of God and also other human beings.

Proverbs 22:11 [NIV] *“He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.”*

If you lie to other people you are far from being gracious towards them.

Note that those in authority from God down will look upon you as a friend.

If you are careful about what you say and strive to only promote the truth you will be building a reputation for honesty among friends and all who come in contact with you.

Others will know you as a person whose word can be relied on.

Such a person will often be favoured and rewarded in many different ways.

Will there be any liars in God’s coming Kingdom, His created family?

Revelation 21:8 [NIV] *“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practise magic arts, the idolaters and all liars, their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.”*

God will **not** allow those who lie to continue to deceive and hurt other humans who have become His created children.

Do you want to end your existence in this way?

Then “let’s be honest.”