

Little White Lies

“But it was only a little white lie. What’s wrong with that?”

How many times have you heard those words or perhaps even said them yourself to justify a “small” falsehood?

I knew of a compulsive liar once. As a child his parents had never allowed him to have any of his schoolmates over to his home. At some point he discovered that he could get attention and admiration from his peers by telling tales about the number of toys he had, food he had eaten, money he had and conquests he had made.

He didn’t worry about being found out because none of his friends would be invited to his home to check up on him.

The young man grew up living and breathing lies. He created a world around him for all his friends to envy, but never see through. He lived this double life, reality and his dreamworld of lies.

Constantly juggling to fit everything together, he impresses new people with his lies, then drops them when he fears they may crack his façade.

His little lies, one built on another, completely engulf his life. One of his favourite sayings is *“Would I lie to you?”*

As Christians, can we afford to treat lightly this subject of lying, no matter how small, “innocent” or justified it may seem?

God is incredibly concerned with the truth.

Truth and the search for the truth is one of the most important facets of Christian life.

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.”*

Our only Saviour personifies Himself as *“the Truth.”*

John 8:44 [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.”*

When we lie we are working for our spiritual father, Satan, and are akin to being a murderer.

Proverbs 19:9 [NIV] *“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish.”*

An independent liar will end up following Satan into oblivion, outer total darkness.

The lying cycle is so easy to slip into and the consequential damage can be very widespread.

Lying may hurt our conscience at first, but each lie that follows will be easier to make until our consciences become calloused, that is, insensitive and unfruitful. Once lost it is hard to recover this tender sensitivity to sin that we should have.

Some may argue that they are telling a falsehood in order to be helpful to others. For example, they may deceive a sick person to shield them from knowing how serious their illness is, or lie to a child to protect them from frightening news.

There are recorded in the Christian Bible the far-reaching consequences of a few “*little white lies*.”

Abraham’s twice-told lie about Sarah being his sister brought some pretty serious repercussions in quite a number of people’s lives. [**Genesis 12:11-17; Genesis 20:2-7**] This even when she was his half-sister!!

Have you ever told a lie by not including all the pertinent facts?

God considered it important enough to reprimand Sarah when she lied about laughing at the idea that she could bear a child in her old age. [**Genesis 18:10-16**]

Have you ever told a lie out of embarrassment?

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

Lies are shameful and also unnecessary for there is an alternative, the truth.

Truth is the most important thing for a Christian to seek, know and practice, for God is the Author of the truth and if we are to be acceptable in His created family we must stop lying.

Colossians 3:9 [NIV] *“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.”*

It is within our relationship with other human beings that we can prove to our Creator that we can be trusted and not lie.

Finally, let us consider the other side of our relationship with God.

Titus 1:2 [New King James] *“in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,”*

Our hope of salvation and eternal life rests totally on the fact that God does not lie.

This is the major reason that we need to diligently eliminate any lies from our lives.

Learn to love the truth and let the truth [Jesus Christ] live again in us as light and salt in this Satan-influenced society that is driven through with lies, from leadership to the least in this world.