

To Tell The Truth

Do you always tell the truth?

Could a lie, even a “small” lie, ever be necessary or even justified?

In this modern day of situation ethics, high powered advertising, complicated interpersonal relationships, and government cover-ups, a person might well be led to wonder.

Leading authorities condone, even encourage, at least “white” lies between husbands and wives, parents and children and other family members.

Advertisers have gone so far in outrageous and often downright untruthful claims about goods and services that no wise consumer implicitly trusts and advertisement nowadays.

What is the Creator God’s reply to this situation?

Revelation 21:8 [New King James] *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

In this godless society this kind of reasoning is illogical, but from a spiritual viewpoint on which the Creator God bases His whole way of life, God commands us *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour”* [**Exodus 20:16**].

This commandment covers all aspects of lying.

False accusations, pretentions, hypocrisy, half-truths, white lies, spreading rumours, even breaking promises.

God hates them all!

Half-truths –

People often try to justify themselves by pretending that a half-truth is not a lie, yet only half the truth is still a full sin against the Creator God, [**Psalms 51:4**].

We all at some time utter half-truths, thinking perhaps that we have **not** broken the Ninth Commandment.

At times it is best not to say anything about a situation, but what we do say must be the plain truth!

Shaded truths –

One of the most important things to remember in any conversation is that people do not always hear what you want them to hear, their ears only grasp what their minds are ready and willing to accept.

Then when the conversation is repeated to others, they shade the truth in a manner that paints them in a good light, just as we have done.

We only hear what we want to hear, and we repeat things in such a way that we appear innocent of any wrongdoing.

If we are honest with ourselves, we all have to admit that we have this tendency.

For instance, when we describe an accident in which we were involved, the “*innocent*” little remark we make, the innuendo we add to our description, the manner in which we describe how it all happened, can make a big difference.

But by shading the truth in this way we are actually telling a lie.

The truth can be shaded by omission, addition or alteration, all of which deform the facts and change the truth into a lie.

Tale-bearing –

Do you repeat whatever you hear, whether good or bad, true or false?

Leviticus 19:11, 16 [NIV] “‘*Do not steal.*’ ‘*Do not lie.*’ ‘*Do not deceive one another.*’” ... “‘*Do not go about spreading slander among your people.*’ ‘*Do not do anything that endangers your neighbour’s life.*’ *I am the LORD.*”

When we spread rumours or act as a tale-bearer, we are breaking the Ninth Commandment, we are not showing love to our neighbour, [**Matthew 19:19; Matthew 22:36-40**].

A true Christian is a peacemaker, [**Romans 12:18**], not a warmonger.

Luke 17:1-2 [New King James] “*Then He said to the disciples, ‘It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.’”*

A true Christian speaks evil of no-one. They do not judge, [**Matthew 7:1**] or repeat things that can hurt another person.

Rumours, as you surely know, spread rapidly, that is because Satan is eager to stir people up against one another and cause strife.

Revelation 12:10 [New King James] “*Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’”*

To spread hurtful rumours makes you an instrument in Satan’s hands, [**John 8:44**].

Psalms 15:1-3 [New King James] “*LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbour, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;”*

This is the type of person our Creator God will offer the gift of eternal life to, [Romans 6:23**].**

Bearing false witness –

A true Christian will report the facts accurately, not taking sides or distorting the truth, [Proverbs 19:5**].**

None of those who persecuted Jesus Christ could find anything wrong with Him. Nevertheless they constantly accused Him of wrongdoing.

They criticised His words and actions. They even bribed people to utter lies about Him, in order to condemn Him, and their ugly conspiracy did not even end at His death. They employed false

witnesses to lie about the miracle of Jesus Christ's resurrection, [**Matthew 27:62-66; Matthew 28:1-15**].

Ask God daily to help you to tell the truth no matter the price or the circumstances.

Hypocrisy –

Hypocrisy is another form of lying, of breaking the Ninth Commandment.

A hypocrite says one thing and does another. For example, the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus Christ's day considered themselves to be righteous and holy, but the truth was that their righteousness was in appearance only, [**Matthew 23:25**]. Therefore Jesus Christ told His disciples not to follow their example, [**Matthew 23:3**]. Another example of hypocrisy is that of Ananias and Sapphira, [**Acts 5:1-10**]. **All hypocrites pretend to be something they are not or pretend to do something they do not.**

Abhor lying –

Lies, hypocrisies and false pretensions have no place in the mind or actions of a true Christian, we all need to ask the question of ourselves, *'Do such thoughts and actions have a place in our day-to-day life?'*

Do you keep all the promises you make? If you do not then you are breaking the Ninth Commandment.

Psalms 119:163 [New King James] *"I hate and abhor lying, but I love Your law."*

It was this attitude of King David that caused him to be "a man after God's own heart," [**Acts 13:22**].

If we want to be a *"Christian after God's own heart"* we, like David, have to abhor lying, in all its forms, and love God's law.