

A Lying Tongue

Proverbs 6:17

Introduction: Our society has grown very tolerant toward this sin. We have come to expect it in politicians and used car salesmen, but will object strenuously to this being practiced by a physician. Parents are known to expect their children to be ever so truthful with them while failing to be truthful with them. Credibility is something which is to be valued, but lying reduces credibility to nothing. Here we read that God hates “*a lying tongue.*” What else does the Bible say about lying?

I. Definition And Explanation.

- A. Lying is defined as “*to lie, to speak deliberate falsehoods; to deceive one by a lie, to lie to*” (Thayer).
- B. While all lying is sin, there is an aspect of lying which rises to a higher level. It is that of bearing false witness (lesson on this later).
- C. Some are said to “*love and practice a lie*” (*Rev. 22:15*).

II. The Father Of Lies.

- A. Satan is the Father of lies (*Jn. 8:44*).
 - 1. Lied to Eve in the Garden (*Gen. 3:4*).
 - 2. Used subtlety (*2 Cor. 11:3*). Subtlety is craftiness or guile, a decoy from the truth.
- B. Lying is an abomination to the Lord (*Prov. 12:22; cf. Rev. 21:8*).

III. Some Case Studies.

- A. Abraham and Sarah.
 - 1. Abraham.
 - a. To Pharaoh, “*my sister*” (*Gen. 12:13*).
 - b. To Abimelech, “*my sister*” (*Gen. 20:2*).
 - 2. Sarah.
 - a. To Abimelech, “*my brother*” (*Gen. 20:5*).
 - 3. Yet, there was a measure of truth. They were actually half-brother and half-sister (*Gen. 20:12*). But, they were also husband and wife!
 - 4. The other half of a half-truth is a half-lie!

*That a lie which is half a truth is ever
the blackest of lies,
That a lie which is all a lie may be met
and fought with outright,
But a lie which is part a truth is a
harder matter to fight.*

Alfred, Lord Tennyson
The Grandmother, Stanza 8

- B. Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac.
 1. Used same answer about Rebecca (*Gen. 26:7*).
 2. This was all lie!
- C. Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac's son Jacob. Lied to Isaac about his identity (*Gen. 27:19*).
- D. The man of God (*1 Kgs. 13:1-30*). This unnamed individual was not excused for believing a lie even though he was ignorant of being lied to. Ignorance will not diminish the impact of a lie! *See 2 Thess. 2:11*.
- E. Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 5:1-11*).
 1. Had the right to do as they willed (*v. 4*).
 2. However, chose to lie (*vv. 3-4*).

IV. Things Often Heard.

- A. "I was sick." Maybe they were. God hasn't called me to be a physician. I do not have the gift to instantly analyze the physical condition of someone I can't even see. However, I am not totally naive either. Some are not sick when they say they are sick!
- B. "I was out of town." Maybe they were. But it just might be that out of town is one or two miles down the road. I guess that's too far to make it to the meeting place on time.
- C. "I can't sit in the seat that long." But, I can sit at a ball game in freezing weather for three hours. I can sit in a car and travel 900 miles to Florida.
- D. "I don't have enough time." 24 hours in a day is what I have. If a person has less than this, I will personally write an excuse slip for them.
- E. "The hour is wrong." Yet, I can go hunting or fishing at the crack of dawn. I can party, travel, work until midnight. Is time different on the Lord's day than any other day of the week?
- F. God is not deceived. He will judge. Some of the things preachers and/or elders are told are, to put it bluntly, **LIES**. It is true that God will judge. It is equally true that I had better be careful.

V. Lying Can Be Avoided.

- A. Jesus had no deceit {guile, KJV} (*1 Peter 2:22*).
- B. No deceit (guile) in Nathaniel (*Jn. 1:47*).
- C. Flee deceit (*1 Peter 2:1; 3:10*).
- D. Flee lying, speak truth (*Eph. 4:25*).

Conclusion: Let us close by looking at *Proverbs 8:6-9*: "**Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things; For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.**"