**“Do not lie to one another”**

*Colossians 3:9*

**Introduction**

1. The Bible forbids lying. Christians should refrain from telling lies.
2. Common question: Is lying ever okay?
   1. Idea – situational ethics – not based on an unchanging standard, but the interpretation of that standard through different situations.
   2. **This is against the Biblical view.**
   3. **God’s commands are not meant to be taken or left depending on the situation.**
   4. Lying is prohibited.
3. ***“Do not lie to one another” (Colossians 3:9)*** – why?
4. Lying is Against the Nature of God
5. God and Truth
   1. **Proverbs 6:16-19** – God HATES lying.
   2. **Exodus 34:5-6** – He abounds in truth (Moses on Mt Sinai for the writing of the new tablets – 10 Commandments).
   3. **John 14:6-7** – Jesus said He is the truth, and equated Himself with God the Father. (*Reason He is the way to the Father is because He and His Father are one – He is the truth, His Father is the truth*.)
      1. **John 17:17** – In Jesus’ prayer, He said God’s word is truth.
      2. **When God speaks, He speaks truth.**
   4. **His promises are certain because of His nature (Hebrews 6:13-18):**
      1. (**vv. 13-17**) – God made a promise, and took an oath – immutable (unchangeable) things.
      2. (**v. 18)** – This gave great confidence to Abraham, and stands to give us confidence because God CANNOT lie.
      3. **Cf. Titus 1:1-3** – Our hope is sure because God cannot lie.
   5. ***“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19)***.
   6. Lying does not come from above, but from Satan – **cf. James 3:14-15** 🡪
6. Satan and Lies
   1. ***“that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9)***.
   2. **John 8:44** (Jesus to unbelieving Jews) – Satan is the originator of lying.
      1. ***“speaks from his own resources”*** – those who use lying are appealing to Satan.
      2. Used lying to murder from the beginning (*Using lying as a primary resource*) 🡪
7. Lying is Destructive and Evil
8. An Assault on Man
   1. **Eve:**
      1. **Genesis 2:15-17** – God’s clear instructions. Meant to guide them in the proper way, not to harm them.
      2. Serpent deceives/lies **(Genesis 3:1-6):**
         1. He is cunning:
            1. ***“every tree”*** – knew that wasn’t the prohibition, but wanted to spark distrust in Eve.

Not every tree, but just this one.

**But why this one?**

* + - * 1. **(v. 4)** – You will not surely die.
        2. **But why did God say she would die? (v.3)**

**(v. 5)** – some selfish ill-will and envy – **It won’t kill you, He just doesn’t want you to be like Him!**

**Uses truth to deceive** – it would open their eyes, and they would know good and evil like God – **but SHE WOULD DIE, AND GOD WAS NOT ENVIOUS.**

* + - 1. **(v. 6**) – She succumb to Satan’s ploy, and ate – **it is good, it will make me wise, and God just doesn’t want what is best for me…**
  1. **Corinthians (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:1-4):**
     1. **(v. 3)** – deceived like the Serpent did Eve?
        1. **Simplicity** – *haplotēs*; singleness.
           1. **(v. 2)** – ONE husband.
           2. **(v. 4)** – ONE gospel.
        2. Is God too restrictive? Are these other doctrines really that bad?
     2. **Paul was simply trying to promote sound spiritual growth for the Corinthians. The real evil was with the false apostles and their doctrine of demons.**
  2. **Ananias and Sapphira (cf. Acts 5):**
     1. **(v. 3)** – Satan filled his heart – the lie was under the influence of the father of lies.
     2. **(v. 4)** – It was his to keep back! He thought lying would be better for him, to make him seem more generous.
     3. **(v. 5)** – Died because of it, along with his wife **(vv. 9-10).**

1. An Assault on God
   1. **False teaching:**
      1. **Jude 4** – turn the grace of God into lewdness.
      2. **Titus 2:11-14** – God’s grace is meant for the exact opposite.
      3. **1 John 3:5-6** – God’s plan was to take sin away, not promote it.
   2. **Death of Jesus:**
      1. **Genesis 3:15** – bruised heel – God would be assaulted in this process.
      2. Lies about Jesus:
         1. **Able to destroy the temple (cf. Mark 14:55-61a)**:
            1. **Cf. John 2:18-22** – **Firstly**, they would be the ones destroying it. **Secondly**, He spoke of His body. (Sign that He is the Son of God.)
            2. ***“I”*** – He did not say He would destroy it, but told them to do so.
            3. ***“made with hands…made without hands”*** – He did not say that.
         2. **Concerning taxes (cf. Luke 23:1-2):**
            1. **Pilate** – Roman governor – Roman interests.
            2. **Jesus does not pay taxes?**

**Cf. Matthew 22:17-22** – render to Caesar that which is Caesar’s.

Bold-faced lie.

* + - * 1. **And calls Himself a king:**

This, along with the lie about taxes, would paint a picture in the mind of Pilate 🡪

*Is Jesus in rebellion to Rome? Does He intend to lead a political revolt, and usurp the throne?*

**Cf. John 18:36** – spiritual kingdom.

1. **Lying is a ploy, and design of Satan – it was never intended for good! (*Those who claim to lie for the greater good just do not understand the harm such causes – especially on the spiritual plane.*)**
2. Lying is Against the Nature of the New Man
3. Put Off the Old Man
   1. Lying is characteristic of the old man of sin.
   2. **John 8:44** – lying is of Satan, and those who lie are of Satan.
   3. **Colossians 3:8-10** – The old man was one who lied, but the new man is created according to the image of Christ 🡪
4. Put On the New Man
   1. **Colossians 3:10** – new man is renewed in knowledge of the image of Christ.
      1. **John 14:6** – Jesus is the truth.
      2. He speaks truth, not lies.
      3. A Christian, one who follows Christ, is to speak the truth.
   2. **Especially important in the church:**
      1. **Colossians 3:9** – “to one another”
      2. **Ephesians 4:25** – do not lie to one another because you are members of each other.
         1. **Cf. Romans 12:4-5** – different members, different functions, contribute to the body.
         2. Like the human body, necessary to proper functioning is good communication.
         3. **When there is lying, the body is dysfunctional.**
         4. **Rather than lying – Ephesians 4:15** – speak truth in love.
   3. **Especially important in personal relationship with God:**
      1. One who lies to all others will eventually lie to himself and God.
      2. We must be of the truth if we desire fellowship with God – **cf. 1 John 1:5-7**
      3. When we fall out of the light, we must be willing to tell the truth about our sins to God – **1 John 1:8-10**
   4. **Lying has no part to play in the life of a Christian.**

**Conclusion**

1. The Bible is very clear about lying – DO NOT DO IT.
2. Lying comes from Satan, and those who practice such follow his steps.
3. Christians are of God, who is the truth, and must speak the truth.