



LET'S DO IT GOD'S WAY "Speaking the Truth" Exodus 20:16

No. 5527

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Our judicial system requires witnesses to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Failure to do so is called perjury, which is a crime bearing severe penalties. God, who is far more committed to truth than man, expects us to tell the truth, too.

I. God's Prohibition Against Lying.

- A. The struggle of God against the devil. John 8:24-47
 - 1. The father of righteousness.
 - 2. The father of lies.
- B. The struggle of good against evil.
 - 1. God's creation—"good." Genesis 1
 - 2. Devil's commitment—"destruction." John 10:10
- C. The struggle of truth against delusion. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6
 - 1. The blinding of delusion.
 - 2. The eye-opening of truth.
- D. The struggle of righteousness against sin.
 - 1. Righteousness in the Law. Deuteronomy 19:15-21
 - 2. Righteousness in life. Proverbs 14:25; 25-18

II. Man's Propensity Towards Lying.

- A. Man's propensity to lie to himself.
 - 1. Man is conscious of himself.
 - 2. Man has opinions of himself. Romans 12:3
 - 3. Man can lie to himself. Romans 1:28-32
- B. Man's propensity to lie to God. Acts 5:1-11
 - 1. A desire to find favor with God.
 - 2. An unwillingness to relate adequately to God.
- C. Man's propensity to lie to his neighbor.
 - 1. The destructive lie. Matthew 26:59-60
 - a. Malicious intent. Genesis 39:16-18
 - b. Erroneous content.
 - 2. The defensive lie. Luke 22:45-62
 - a. The fear of exposure.
 - b. The compounding of guilt.
 - 3. The defective lie.
 - a. The lies of carelessness.
 - b. The lies of boastfulness.
 - c. The lies of silence.
 - d. The lies of half-truth.
 - 4. The deceptive lie.
 - a. Designed to deceive.
 - b. Intended to defeat.

III. Christianity's Provision to Avoid Lying. Ephesians 4:15-32

- A. Learning the truth. vv. 20-24
 - 1. Recognize the truth in Jesus.
 - 2. Reject lies opposed to truth.
 - 3. Receive new life in Christ.
 - 4. Resolve to live in righteousness.
- B. Loving the truth.
 - 1. Because it is unloving to lie. v. 15
 - 2. Because it is antisocial to lie. v. 25
 - 3. Because it is counter-productive to lie. vv. 29, 31
 - 4. Because it is opposed to the spirit to lie. v. 30
- C. Living the truth. 1 Peter 3:15-17
 - 1. Living the truth in word.
 - 2. Living the truth in deed.