

Matthew 5:33-37: Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Intro: Matthew 5:20: For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Citizens of Christ's Kingdom (those born again!) love the truth, they tell the truth, and they love the truth and tell the truth because they know, trust, and love the God of truth!

John 18:37-38: Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world- to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

Truth: Webster 1828: Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, or has been, or shall be.

Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The problem: We have all been liars!

Article: Some Reasons People Lie:

1. To make ourselves look good or better
2. To shift blame – to get out of trouble
3. To avoid confrontation
4. To get our own way – to gain something for ourselves
5. To be nice
6. To make ourselves feel better

60% of adults can not have a ten minute conversation without lying at least once. Within those ten minutes, an average of three lies were told.

- 12% of adults admit to telling a lie often or sometimes.
- 80% of women admit to telling harmless half truths occasionally.
- 31% of people admit to lying on their resumes. (interviews, taxes)
- 13% of patients lie to their doctor.
- 6 lies are told daily by men to their partner, boss, or colleagues.
- 3 lies are told daily by women to their partner, boss, or colleagues.
- A 10th of lies are just exaggerations and 60% were outright deceptions.
- 70% of liars claim they would tell their lies again.
- Americans tell an average of 11 lies a week.

9 in 10 middle school students admit to cheating on school work

Over 15 million Americans are victim to identity fraud each year, costing about \$50 billion in damages

57% of men admit to infidelity in a past or present relationship; 54% of women admit the same:
Do you see the connection to last week – the importance of faithfulness and commitment in marriage!

Citizens of Christ's Kingdom (those born again!) love the truth, they tell the truth, and they love the truth and tell the truth because they know, trust, and love the God of truth!

1. God Is The God Of Truth

a. God the Father is truth: John 8:26: He who sent me is true

b. God the Son is truth: John 14:6: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

c. God the Spirit is truth: 1 John 5:6: And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

d. God is the God of truth: He's called the God of truth (Isa. 65:16); The Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 14-16)

e. God is the only true God: John 17:3: this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

f. All that God speaks is truth: Psalm 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

g. God never lies: Hebrews 6:18: it is impossible for God to lie

2. The Law Of God Taught That God's People Should Tell The Truth

Matthew 5:33: Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'

- **Leviticus 19:12:** You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

- **Numbers 30:2:** If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

- **Deuteronomy 23:21:** If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.

3. The Pharisees Perverted God's Law So That They Could Be Dishonest

Matthew 5:34-36: But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

The Pharisees and others misused & misapplied God's good commandments about oaths & vows so that they could be dishonest! They did this in two ways: 1) They restricted these commandments to only the legal, court setting.

2) They wrongly taught that if you made a vow in the name of the LORD, you had to keep it, but if it was a vow on something of lesser value, then you didn't necessarily have to keep it. Jesus forbids all of this.

D. A. Carson: Jesus insists that whatever a man swears by is related to God in some way, & therefore every oath is implicitly in God's name: heaven, earth, Jerusalem . . . the hairs of the head are all under God's sway & ownership

Matthew 23:16-23: "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' ¹⁷ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? ¹⁸ And you say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' ¹⁹ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰ So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹ And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. ²² And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it. ²³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Why do people swear? (Inauguration, swear on my mother's grave!) - To show they really mean it! It's the truth! As followers of Jesus, we should always mean what we say and say what we mean!

4. What Jesus' Teaching Here Doesn't Mean

Some people have wrongly interpreted Jesus' teaching here to mean that you can never make oaths or take vows.

a. God made oaths: Acts 2:30-32: God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. **(God swears for us!)**

b. Paul took a vow and made oaths: Acts 18:18: At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.

- **2 Corinthians 1:23:** But I call God to witness against me - it was to spare you that I refrained from coming

- **Philippians 1:8:** For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

- **Galatians 1:20:** (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)

c. An Angel swore in God's name: Revelation 10:5-6: And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven⁶ and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay

d. Jesus testified under oath: Matthew 26:63-64: The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

e. We make vows and take oaths: Marriage; Church Membership; Courts of law

Jesus' point is that every word we speak should be truth! All of our speech is under God and on God and reflects on God because we are a people called by His name! What we do and say and promise – all of it – reflects on God!

William Barclay: Here is a great eternal truth. Life cannot be divided into compartments in some of which God is involved, and in others of which He is not involved. There cannot be one kind of language in the church and another kind of language in the home. There cannot be one kind of standard of conduct in the church and another standard of conduct in the business world. The fact is that God does not need to be invited into certain departments of life and kept out of others, He is everywhere, all through life, and every activity of life. He hears not only the words which are spoken in His name, He hears all words, and there cannot be any such thing as a form of words which evades bringing God into any transaction. We will regard all promises as sacred if we remember that all promises are made in the presence of God.

Susanna Wesley: She would never punish her children if they came and told her the truth.

Are you a liar? Are you living a lie right now in some way? Have you ever lied? **GOSPEL!**

5. Citizens Of Christ's Kingdom Tell The Truth

Matthew 5:37: Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Citizens of Christ's Kingdom love the truth, they tell the truth, and they love the truth and tell the truth because they know, trust, and love the God of truth! And they hate lies because lies are evil and come from the evil one, the father of lies!

John 8:44: You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- **James 5:12:** But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.
- **Colossians 3:9-10:** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- **Ephesians 4:22-25:** to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
- **Matthew 12:36:** I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak
- **Proverbs 6:16-17:** There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue
- **Rev. 21:8:** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, & all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: As Christians, we should always speak as in the presence of God.

Are there ways, like the Pharisees, that you avoid telling the truth? Do you look for loopholes?

Brian Davis: Do you keep your word? When you say you are going to do something, do you do it? When you say you are going to be somewhere, are you there? Parents when you tell your children you are going to do something, do you do it? Commitments at church? Being here on Sundays? Do you confess it as sin when your yes is no?

Jesus: our example and hope: Matthew 8:6-10: "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

Titus 1:1-2: Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

Jesus Spoke What's Good And True
 He Is The Truth – The God-Man Jew
 Who Lived And Spoke Like No One Knew
 And Our God Swore To Send Him To
 Bear God's Wrath For Me And You
 He Died To Hell And Sin Undue
 But Now He's Risen – Death Is Through
 By Faith Alone We're All Made New
 Reflecting God In All We Do
 We Tell The Truth And Lies Subdue
 In All His Glory We Pursue!