

## LYING, FALSEHOOD, ERROR, DECEIT

- I. Representative Biblical references.
  - A. Old Testament

Exod. 20:16 - "you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."  
Prov. 6:12 - "a worthless person, a wicked man,...one with a false mouth"  
Prov. 12:22 - "lying lips are an abomination to the Lord"
  - B. Varying Greek words in New Testament.
    - A. Greek words *pseudēs, pseudomai, pseudos, pseustes* - false, lie  
Eph. 4:25 - "laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you"  
Col. 3:9 - "do not lie to one another...you have laid aside old self"  
I Jn. 2:22 - "Who is the liar...the one who denies Jesus is the Christ"
    - B. Greek words *apatao, apate, exapatao* - deceive  
Eph. 4:22 - "old man corrupted with lusts of deceit"  
Eph. 5:6 - "let no one deceive you with empty words"  
Gal. 6:3 - "if anyone thinks he is something...deceives himself"
    - C. Greek words *plane, planos* - deception, error  
Matt. 24:4 - "see to it that no one misleads you"  
Gal. 6:7 - "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked"  
Eph. 4:14 - "trickery of men, craftiness in deceitful scheming"
    - D. Greek words *dolios, dolioo, dolos, doloo* - false, deceitful  
Mk. 7:22 - "from heart of man proceed deeds of deceit"  
II Cor. 11:3 - "as serpent deceived Eve..you might be led astray"  
I Pet. 2:1 - "putting aside all guile (deceit) and hypocrisy"
- II. Some Biblical examples of lying, deception, falsehood.
  - A. Serpent - Gen. 3:1-5
  - B. Cain - Gen. 4:9
  - C. Abraham - Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18
  - D. Isaac - Gen. 26:6-11
  - E. Jacob - Gen. 27:6-35
  - F. Laban - Gen. 29:15-30
  - G. Hebrew midwives - Exod. 1:15-21
  - H. Rahab - Josh. 2:1-6; 6:17,22-25
  - I. Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11
- III. Spiritual source of lies, deception, error
  - A. God cannot lie. Contrary to His character of Truth.

Numb. 23:19 - "God is not a man, that he should lie"  
Heb. 6:18 - "it is impossible for God to lie"  
Titus 1:2 - "God, who cannot lie"  
Jn. 8:32,36 - "the truth shall set you free...the Son..."  
Jn. 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life"  
I Jn. 2:27 - "is true, and is not lie"
  - B. Lying, falsehood, error, deception is the character of the Evil One, Satan.

Jn. 8:44 - "devil, no truth in him...he is a liar, and the father of lies"  
I Jn. 4:6 - "the spirit of error"  
Rev. 12:9 - "devil and Satan...who deceives the whole world"  
Rev. 20:10 - "the devil who deceived them"

- C. Fallen mankind identified with Satan's character of lie and deceit  
 II Cor. 11:3 - "serpent deceived Eve..."  
 Ps. 58:3 - "those who speak lies go astray from birth"  
 Rom. 1:25 - "they exchanged the truth of God for the lie"
- D. Lying, deception, falsehood in man derived from Satan - *ek diabolos*  
 Jn. 8:44 - "devil..the father of lies"  
 Acts 5:3,4 - "Satan filled your heart to lie to Holy Spirit"

#### IV. Christian behavior

- A. Should represent and manifest the character of God's Truth  
 Matt. 5:37 - "let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No' be 'No'"  
 Eph. 4:15 - "speak the truth in love"  
 Eph. 4:25 - "speak truth, each one of you"
- B. Should not misrepresent the character of God  
 Lk. 3:14 - "do not accuse anyone falsely"  
 Eph. 4:25 - "laying aside falsehood"  
 Col. 3:9 - "do not lie to one another"
  - 1. Inconsistency of such misrepresentation  
 James 3:14 - "do not be arrogant, and lie against the truth"  
 I Pet. 2:1 - "putting aside all guile (deceit) and hypocrisy"  
 I Jn. 1:6 - "if walk in darkness, we lie, and do not practice the truth"  
 I Jn. 4:20 - "If says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar"
  - 2. Severity of punishment - Acts 5:1-11; 13:6-11; Rev. 21:8,27; 22:15

- V. Religion is the hotbed of lying, deceit, falsehood and error. Jn. 8:44,45; Rom. 16:18;  
 II Cor. 4:2; 11:3, 13-15; Eph. 4:14; I Thess. 2:9; I Tim. 4:1,2; II Tim. 3:13; II  
 Pet. 2:3; 3:17; I Jn. 2:26; II Jn. 7; Jude 11

#### VI. Some practical questions and considerations

- A. Are some personalities more prone to lying than other personalities?
- B. Do exaggeration, embellishment, inflation of figures qualify as lying?
- C. Are there degrees of lying? ex. "little white lies"
- D. What is meant by the term "pathological liar?"
- E. Does the end ever justify the means of lying?
- F. Is there such a thing as a "loving lie"?
- G. Does the omission of information qualify as a lie?
- H. Does the phrase, "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15), create an intrinsic conflict?