

A Light in the Valley

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Being Truthful

by: Kris Brewer

We live in a society that simply does not value honesty. Dishonesty, deceit, and lying seem to be a regular part of life. The person who is able to use deceit to achieve better sales or provide a better profit margin in the work place wins the promotion. “Little white lies” are often told to avoid causing some sort of distress to others. Perhaps, more than any other circumstance in life, situation ethics enters into allowing for dishonesty. Many believe that it is acceptable to lie, as long as doing so is for the good of someone else, or if it avoids some evil that is perceived to be greater than the lie itself. Thus, we have accepted the concept of “little white lie” as being a necessary evil. Sometimes, the determinant factor in one’s mind is whether the dishonesty will actually hurt someone else or not. If a person is seeking to protect another from some harm, then he believe it is appropriate to be a little bit dishonest. Even though this has become common place in our society, is this the type of people that God would have us

to be? Let us consider what the scriptures have to say about honesty.

Lying is always bad...

Throughout the New Testament, the concept of being dishonest is always portrayed as a bad thing. The inspired writers make it clear that being dishonest is sinful! Consider just a couple of passages that address this concept:

Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another (Ephesians 4:25).

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all (Colossians 3:9–11).

Paul makes it clear in this latter passage

that lying is a part of the old man of sin, who was supposed to be put away from us! If we are going to claim to be the people of God, then He expects us to stop being deceitful! Thinking that it is acceptable to be dishonest, under any circumstances, reveals that a person has not truly put that old man of sin to death. He is continuing to live the same sinful life, just as if he continued on with any other sinful practice condemned in scripture!

Jesus Himself identified how a follower of God should be:

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one (Matthew 5:33–37).

Jesus’ instruction is that we should be so trustworthy that our word is good enough. There should be no reason for us to take an oath to confirm our word, for we are so trustworthy that we are known for our honesty. When we seek to deceive others, we certainly will never be considered as trustworthy by others!

Deceit comes from its source...

Perhaps the idea from scripture that should make a person seriously consider the act of lying is the identified source of the practice. Jesus Himself clearly identified where such deceit comes from:

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44).

If a person understands that Satan is the source of dishonesty, that lying is among the greatest of his tools and tactics, he should desire to stay as far away from it as he possibly can! And yet, it seems that many believe it is appropriate to dabble in it, as long as it is not too serious. Paul, when he wrote his letter to Timothy, warned that there would be many who were dissuaded by deceiving spirits, and they would give heed to the resulting dishonesty leading to their own spiritual destruction:

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the

faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth (1 Timothy 4:1–3).

There is a particular nature that is exposed by those who are dishonest in the way they speak and deal with others. Paul identified those who were evil as portraying the characteristic of deceit. They are not “just dishonest,” but characterized as evil people!

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 3:13).

While we may try to downplay the seriousness of telling something that is not quite true, Paul said that those who are deceiving others are evil!

Those who are guilty of lying are condemned...

Paul addressed the principle of lying among other sinful practices when he wrote to Timothy concerning the need for law. He told Timothy that the law was good, for those who used it lawfully. The law was necessary because there are evil people in the world. While many of the sinful practices listed by Paul strike our sensibilities, some of the listed sins are easily overlooked as more insignificant. But, one point that is drawn from Paul’s lists is that all sins are equal and have equal consequence! Paul’s warning to Timothy expresses this very idea:

But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust (1 Timothy 1:8–11).

But let your ‘Yes’
be ‘Yes,’ and your
‘No,’ ‘No.’ For what-
ever is more than
these is from the
evil one.

--Matthew 5:37--

Notice that Paul listed “liars” right beside sodomites, fornicators, and kidnappers!

This should show us the seriousness of such sins, even those that we might consider to be less severe. John, as he recorded what he heard from a voice in Heaven in the book of Revelation said:

He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:7–8).

The lake burning with fire and brimstone was prepared for those who are liars, as well as all other sins of which people refuse to repent. The clear consequence of these sinful practices is an eternity in hell. Notice that the voice told John that "all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone..." There was no distinction made between little lies and big lies. There was no distinction made for those who were causing harm, and those who were not causing harm.

Some applications for consideration...

In our technologically advanced society, it is very easy for us to portray ourselves as something that we are not. We can develop a persona that is quite limited in scope. People can see only what we allow them to see, which may be completely different than the reality of our lives. It is easy to write things and post them to social media sites, blogs and the like that are simply not accurately depicting who we are, how we act, and what we believe. It is also easy to post things about others that are not true, and perhaps even accomplish that without the knowledge of the person being spoken (or written) about. People can be portrayed in an inaccurate manner, and never given the opportunity to correct it or defend themselves because of the secretive nature of the writing. We should be very cautious about how we portray ourselves, as well as how we speak about others. First, we should make sure it is accurate, and second we should make sure that what we have to say is beneficial (as opposed to gossip!).

Study Opportunities

Sunday Bible Study: 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship Assembly: 11:00 AM

Meeting At

Homewood Suites of Bozeman
1023 E Baxter Ln,
Bozeman, MT 59715

Everyone Welcome!

Another trap to which we can easily fall prey is to try and bind ourselves up in “technicalities.” We technically do not say anything that is not true, but we twist the truth around in such a way as to purposefully deceive others. We carefully craft our accounting to make sure that the hearers take away only the perception that we want them to have, which is not the truthful conclusion. If we are communicating in such a way as to deceive others, whether we technically speak the truth or not is immaterial. If our intent is to deceive others, then we are classified with the “evil men” that Paul warned Timothy about!

We should be diligent to be truthful, honest people in our dealings with others. We must be careful to communicate in a way that truly brings honor and glory to God. There are many warnings in scripture concerning the use of the tongue, which can obviously include other sins, but allowing ourselves to succumb to the temptation of dishonesty seems to be a difficult hurdle to overcome. Let us work every day toward being honest and trustworthy in all of our endeavors. “But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’”

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the church--what a beautiful love! Why would we not want to be recipients of such deep love? Now granted, there are men that abuse and distort their role, and they may have wives that despise them for it, but that is not the attitude God wants us to have. Our gentle, submissive spirit can do more for our husbands than nagging, hateful words ever can.

As wives, being submissive to our husband’s authority is more than an action, it is an attitude; an attitude of being content, joyful, obedient and respectful. One husband summarized submission as “no resistance.” Now that does not mean that a husband can walk all over his wife. What it does mean is that a husband and wife should discuss all things. A wife should tell her husband exactly how she feels about things, but in an attitude of love and with the understanding that his word is final. If she disagrees with his decision, she should not sulk and carry on, but trust and accept it. Joyfully supporting your husband’s decisions will always work out better in the end.

Choose to be the great woman behind your great man. He may have his shortcomings, but with your love and support he can climb mountains and lead your family to heaven. Your marriage will be happy and blessed if you choose to make it so.

What's Behind a Great Man?

Ladies

Corner

by: Amy Drake

It's been said that behind every great man is a great woman. What a powerful statement! As wives we have the ability to build our husbands up to be incredible men and servants of God. We can give them strength and courage like no other can. Our husbands allow us into a special place in their lives, a place where they are very vulnerable. We can nurture and protect their weak spots, or we can expose their weaknesses and bring our man shamefully to his knees. It is a bitter woman and poor wife who would do such a thing.

There are three key words that every wife should keep in mind. Accept, Admire, and Authority. We should accept our husband at face value, we should admire the man that he is, and submit to his authority.

There have been many young brides who marry believing that after the "I do's" she will have the power to change those nasty habits and traits she does not like in her new husband. WRONG. If anything, once she is living with him, she is going to find even more things she does not like. As wives, we have to look past our husband's habits that we don't care for. If it is not sinful, move on. Nothing good can come from dwelling on such things. Instead, accept the man you married for who he is and learn to have patience and a blind eye. Proverbs 26:15 says, "A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike." Your marriage will be much happier and healthier if you choose to build your husband up instead of tearing at his every fault. And remember--you too are not perfect.

Admiration is part of loving someone. It has the ability to affect their self-image like nothing else. If you have reverence for your husband, which encompasses admiration, your lives are going to be filled with respect, honor, praise and enjoyment. Who doesn't want to enjoy their marriage?

To admire your husband, you really have to know him. You may say, "I married the man, of course I know him!" But when was the last time you had a deep meaningful conversation with him? When did you last talk about something other than the kids, bills, and chores? You have to communicate effectively to really know your husband. You have to really listen to him. It doesn't count if while he is speaking you are nodding your head as you watch TV or crochet. Give him your undivided

attention; he deserves it. Linda Dillow, in her book *The Creative Counterpart*, presents a list of questions to ask your husband. Answer these questions on your own, then tonight ask your husband to find out if you really know him.

What is the happiest thing that has ever happened to your husband?

- What has been the hardest experience of his life?
- What are his secret ambitions, his goals for life?
- What are his deep fears?
- What about you does he appreciate the most?
- What traits of you would he like to see changed?
- What man or men does he most admire?

On the lighter side of things, choose to be interested in the things that interest your husband. Anyone who knows my husband will tell you what a car-buff he is. His mother bought him a car encyclopedia for pleasure reading when he was little. I make it a point to listen to my husband when he gets off on a tangent about cars. I like to play a game with him where I see a car on the road or on TV and say, "what's that car?" He will immediately divulge not only the make, year, model, but also the value, gas mileage, availability, motor, where the factory is, who screwed this bolt on the chassis...you get the idea. I also know that there are certain cars that my husband dreams of owning one day that we can't afford right now. I don't discourage those desires just because we don't have the money for them. I let him dream and tell him that one day I would love for him to own those cars. I make the choice to support my husband in his dreams and desires, and I like to think he is a better man and I am a better wife because of those choices.

In our modern society, most women do not like the notion that men have authority over them. But as Christian women, God has told us that it is in his plan for us to be submissive. Ephesians 5:21-24 says, "Submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." We should not accept the modern connotation of submissiveness to be demeaning. God likens it to Christ and his sacrificial love for

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Daily Bible Reading

June 2017

June 1	Philippians 1:19-2:11	June 16	2 Thessalonians 3
June 2	Philippians 2:12-3:11	June 19	1 Timothy 1-2
June 5	Philippians 3:12-4:23	June 20	1 Timothy 3:1-4:5
June 6	Colossians 1	June 21	1 Timothy 4:6-5:16
June 7	Colossians 2	June 22	1 Timothy 5:17-6:21
June 8	Colossians 3:1-17	June 23	2 Timothy 1
June 9	Colossians 3:18-4:18	June 26	2 Timothy 2
June 12	1 Thessalonians 1-2	June 27	2 Timothy 3-4
June 13	1 Thessalonians 3-4	June 28	Titus 1:1-2:10
June 14	1 Thessalonians 5	June 29	Titus 2:11-3:15
June 15	2 Thessalonians 1-2	June 30	Philemon

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