

## The Truth About Lying

We've often seen the drama played out. An alleged crime is committed. Attorneys are hired. Charges are filed. The matter goes to trial, and a jury renders a verdict. Afterwards, both plaintiff and defendant deny any wrongdoing; both claim to be telling the truth. IT JUST CAN'T BE!

**Lying** is telling a falsehood with the intent to deceive. Children can lie (Psa 58:3). Satan is the father of lies (Jn 8:44), and his lie included some truth (Gen 3:4, cp. 2:17, 3:3).

**Lying** is linked to sins like marital unfaithfulness, and unfairness (Jer 23:14). John warned that *all liars* would be punished in the burning lake with the cowardly, unbelieving, vile, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers and idolaters (Rev 21:8). Are some lies are justified? Not according to God (cf. Prov 19:5, 9). Scripture makes no distinction between big lies and little white ones.

**Lying** devastates the innocent. Abraham's lie about Sarah being his sister brought a plague from the LORD on one king, and a threat of death on another (Gen 12:17; 20:3, 9). Jacob was overcome with grief when his sons lied about Joseph being dead. Joseph went to prison for many years because of a lie told by Potiphar's wife (Gen 37:23-36; 39:1-18). False teachers are liars (Jer 14:14; 2 Pet 2:14ff); their errant teachings will cause many to be lost eternally.

**Lying** is a deed God hates (Prov 6:16-19, 12:22). God's people are to have NO part in a lie (Psa 119:163, 29, 120:2, Prov 30:8, Eph 4:25). Lying an "abomination" (Prov 12:22) – something detestable to God.

Why do people lie? – Fear, Acceptance, Greed (Jn 12:42-43). Christians are concerned with pleasing the Lord, and His word contains no lies (1 Jn 2:21).

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.