

## The Effects of Lies

**Lies deceive people into disobeying God.** “Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams, says the Lord, and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all, says the Lord” (NKJV, Jer 23:32).

**Lies cause people to be wrongfully accused of a crime** (as was Jesus). “A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies” (Prov 14:25).

**Lies cause the poor to be poorer.** “The schemes of the schemer are evil; he devises wicked plans to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaks justice” (Isa 32:7).

**Lies lead people into rank immorality.** Though the sin of pride came first (Isa 14:12-15; Prov 6:16-19), the overt act of lying is the sin that leads to all other sins. When people *exchange the truth about God for a lie*, they will begin to worship the creation instead of the Creator. Having fallen prey to some form of idolatry, they will practice or condone all manner of unrighteousness, including homosexuality, covetousness, malice, envy, murder, strife and deceit. They will become gossips, slanderers, haters of God, disrespectful, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless and ruthless. Paul stated that the righteous judgment of God is against those who practice such things (cf. Rom 1:24-32, ESV).

Truly, when people refuse to tell the truth they set in motion a horrible chain of events. What is the motivation behind a lie? Next month we will suggest three reasons why people lie.

Green Meadow church of Christ  
3438 Green Meadow Dr.  
San Angelo, TX 76904; (325) 224-2848  
Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.