

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### STUDIES IN PROVERBS

#### LESSON 8: LYING

##### SCRIPTURE READING:

- “<sup>16</sup> These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, <sup>19</sup> A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren” (Prov 6:16-19).
- “Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight” (Prov 12:22).

##### INTRODUCTION:

**A. According to the KJV Dictionary, “A Lie is defined as a falsehood or a conscious and intentional falsehood. A falsehood uttered for the purpose of deception; an intentional violation of truth.”**

**B. Lying is a sin, a violation of the Ninth Commandment: “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor” (Exod 20:16).**

##### **C. Quotes About Lying:**

1. A lie has no legs. It requires other lies to support it. Tell one lie and you are forced to tell others to back it up. Stretching the truth won't make it last any longer. Those that think it permissible to tell white lies soon grow colorblind (Austin O'Malley).
2. I would not tell one lie to save the souls of all the world (John Wesley).
3. No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar (A. Lincoln).

**D. “A lie can travel half way around the world while truth is still lacing up her boots” (Attributed to Mark Twain).**

**E. Lying is marked by or containing falsehoods, false, untruthful, false witnesses.**

#### WORLD'S WAY – WISDOM'S WAY

**World's Way – Wrong reaction to life and others.**

**Wisdom's Way – Biblical (Correct) response to life and others.**

##### WORLD'S WAY

#### A FOOLISH PERSON – A LYING PERSON

**A. A Liar “speaketh lies” (Prov 6:19; 14:5, 25)**

A deceitful witness misrepresents the facts, with all the destructive results that flow from such deceit.

**B. Lying is Born Out of Hatred (Prov 10:18)**

1. The liar hides his hatred for others by lying about them and slandering their name.
2. The liar will pretend to be a person's friend in order to gain their confidence and harm them later.
3. Those who hate others will spread evil reports about them – words that are insincere, untrue and malicious.

**C. Lying is Harmful (Prov 12:18-19)**

The liars use their tongues like a sword to speak reckless and cutting remarks to cause others pain.

**D. Lying Belittles Others (Prov 11:12)**

The liars are those who belittles others with insults and the intent of tearing down and creating chaos.

**E. Lying is Deceitful (Prov 14:25)**

1. A deceitful witness who does not tell the truth may cause an innocent person to suffer unjustly or allow a guilty person to go free.
2. A deceitful person witness can ruin the reputation, vocation, freedom and life of an innocent person.

**F. Liars Love Maliciousness (Prov 17:4; 26:24)**

1. The “wicked doer” takes pleasure in listening to lies and evil gossip.
2. The “wicked doer” **Listening** to false accusations, evil speech and false rumors is as guilty as speaking the destructive talk.

**G. Liars Hate Because They Hurt Others (Prov 28:28)**

When the wicked rise to power based on falsehoods, they prey on the righteous. The wicked promote evilness and unrighteousness on the righteous.

**H. Flatteries are Lies (Prov 26:28)**

**“Flattery is something a person will say to your face but will not say behind your back. It's insincere praise from an insincere motive”** (KJV Dictionary). The speech of the flatterer is a sign of hatred which causes ruin. The flatterer conceals his true motive by a lying tongue.

**I. Lying is Vicious ((Prov 25:18)**

The wicked gives false testimony which can ruin a person just as if it were a weapon – “A maul, and a sword and a sharp arrow.”

- “To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men” (Titus 3:2).

**J. Lying is Hypocrisy (Prov 11:9)**

A “Hypocrite” undermines others with doubts and denials. The tongue of the hypocrite causes division, anger, hurt, pain, abuse, broken relationships, and death.

- “<sup>8</sup> But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.
- The tongue is an untamable, uncontrollable weapon filled with deadly poison. It holds the potential to bless and to curse.

## **K. The Results and Consequences of Lying As Set Forth In Proverbs**

### **1. Lying is Disgusting to the Lord (Prov 6:16-19; 12:22)**

#### **a. God hates liars – “A Lying Tongue” (v. 17)**

- Hate means turned against, unloved, detest

#### **b. “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord” (v. 22)**

- Abomination means a disgusting thing, something that is terrible, wicked, immoral.

### **2. A Liar Qualifies as a Fool (Prov 10:18)**

“Fool” means foolish, stupid, silly

### **3. Lying has No Future – Short-lived (Prov 12:19)**

Lying tongues only last for a moment. A moment means in the wink of an eye.

- “A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish” (Prov 19:9).
- “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out” (Num 32:23).

### **4. Lying Destroys Trust and Friendship (Prov 26:28)**

A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth” (AESOP)

### **5. Character Assassination Results From Lies (Prov 11:9; 25:9-10)**

**a.** Character assassination is a deliberate attempt to destroy someone’s reputation, especially by criticizing them in an unfair and dishonest way when they are not present.

**b. Church Covenant:** “Strive to avoid a contentious spirit, ... to guard each other’s reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others ...”

### **6. Lying Betrays Friends and Neighbors (Prov 11:13)**

“A Talebearer” appears to take a malicious delight in spreading scandal, informing on others and sharing confidential information.

### **7. A False Witness Shall Not Be Unpunished (Prov 19:5)**

A false witness will not escape the righteous judgment of God as He sees all, hears all, and knows all. He promises to vindicate the righteous and hold those accountable who unjustly accuse or spread lies and evil gossip about them.

- “Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness” (Exod 23:1).

- “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Rom 12:19).

### **WISDOM’S WAY**

- **Be Truthful, Be Reliable, Be Trustworthy - (Correct Response)**

### **A WISE PERSON – A TRUTHFUL PERSON**

#### **Prov 14:5 – “A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.”**

- The wisdom way is to tell the truth at all times. Lying should be avoided as it is a sin and goes against the nature of God. God hates lying. A faithful witness is reliable because he always utters what is right.

#### **Prov 12:18-19 – “There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health. The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.**

- Lies are very hurtful and harmful. The wisdom way is to tell the truth, speaking words of kindness, love, truth, uplifting, and encouragement. Lies are short-lived. Truth will outlive lies forever.

#### **Prov 14:25 – “A true witness delivereth souls; but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.”**

- The truth when spoken in court can save an innocent person from death, whereas lies may send an innocent person to death or acquit a guilty person. It is good to keep in mind that nothing is gained by lying. If a person will lie for you, he is just as likely to lie against you.

#### **Prov 26:28 – “A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.”**

- False witnesses are hateful people. Their motive is to harm others by slandering their reputation. The wisdom way is to avoid lies or any negative speech that destroys trust, betrays relationships, and results in character assassinations.

### **SUMMARY OF A WISE PERSON (TRUTHFUL PERSON) -WISDOM WAY FROM PROVERBS:**

Lying is deceitful, dangerous, and harmful. It has the power to lead to the life or death of another person. Therefore, we should always tell the truth regardless of the outcome for us or others. Based on the Book of James, we must learn to control our tongues. “Out of the same mouth proceeded blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be (James 3:10).

#### **Practical Application (including results and consequences)**

1. Read the Bible -lying violates the ninth commandment (Exod 20:16).
2. Do not tell lies (Col 3:9)
3. Telling the truth is righteousness which is consistent with God’s nature (Prov 12:17).
4. Do not embellish, exaggerate, flatter, gossip, or slander a person as all are forms of lying.
5. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Eph 4:29).
6. God is aware of all that we say whether it be good or bad.
7. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Prov 18:21). What you say can have a positive or negative impact on others.

8. Always speak the truth in love.
9. “Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin” (Eccles 5:6)

**KEY VERSE:**

“<sup>7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Gal 6:7-8).

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. Pastor Who Preaches On The Sin Of Lying**

A minister, one Sunday morning, said to his congregation, “Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. In preparation for that message, I’m asking all of you to read Mark 17 this coming week.” The following Sunday, he stood up to preach and asked, “How many of you took the time to read Mark 17 this past week?” Nearly every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, “That’s very good, but Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my message on the sin of *lying*.” (*Lou Nicholes - Missionary/Author*).

**B. Quotes on Being Truthful:**

- “A Half-Truth is a Whole Lie” (Yiddish Proverb)
- “If it is not **Right**, do not do it; If it is not **True**, do not say it” (Anonymous).
- “Truth without Love is Brutality, and Love without Truth is Hypocrisy (Warren W. Wiersbe).
- “No Lie can live Forever” (Thomas Carlyle).
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “I believe that Unarmed Truth and Unconditional Love will have the final word in reality. This is why Right temporarily defeated, is stronger than Evil triumphant.”

**C. ABC’s of Salvation**

- **A – Admit** that you’re a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).