

## Loving the truth: Proverbs on overcoming lying

Lying is Epidemic to human race and part of the sinful bent of all people from the womb. – Jeremiah 17:9;  
Psalm 58:3

Jesus came into the world full of Grace and Truth (John 1:14). God's proverbs on lying are God's gracious plea to turn us from this sin into the joy of knowing Him. He does this by telling us the truth. . . about lying.

### **1. Lying is wrong and a sin against God.** There are about 40 verses on lying and deception in Proverbs

Prov . 12:22

*Lying in an abomination to the lord, but those who deal faithfully are his delight*

Prov. 11:1

*A false balance is an abomination to the lord, but a just weight is His delight*

Prov. 6:16-19

*There are six things that the Lord hates, Seven that are an abomination <sup>[a]</sup>to Him:*

<sup>17</sup> *Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,*

<sup>18</sup> *A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,*

<sup>19</sup> *A false witness who declares lies, And one who <sup>[b]</sup>spreads strife among brothers.*

#### - Lying is forbidden in the 10 commandments:

- Ex. 20:16: *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor*
- Lev. 19:11. *You shall not steal, deal falsely or lie to one another*

### **2 Recognize when we are lying. You know you have a problem with lying when the following is true of you:**

#### **a. Misrepresent reality for personal gain.**

Prov. 6:17

*Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,*

A "lying tongue" is a picture of one who is

- a. person who has no regard for truth.
- b. To lie is to distort reality for one's own purposes and bespeaks
- c. a refusal to submit to norms of right and wrong;
- d. by lying, one seeks to rearrange not just individual facts but one's just place in the world and so avoid having to live by the normal rules of life.

#### **b. Justify lies by cultural standards not God's word.**

Rom. 3:4

*God forbid: let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged*

#### **c. Justify it with God. Claim it has no effect on relationship with Him.**

- a. Prov. 30:20

*This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wrong."*

- b. 30:12

*There is a [a]kind who is pure in his own eyes,  
Yet is not washed from his filthiness*

- c. *1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth*
- d. *1 John 2:4. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him*
- e. *1 John 4:20. if a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*

d. **lie about our motives** for speaking evil, claiming we were joking.

*Prov. 26:18-29. As a mad man who casts firebrands, arrows, and death, So is the man that deceives his neighbor, and saith, Am not I in joking?*

e. **lie about others.**

*Prov. 10:18: One who conceals hatred has lying lips, And one who spreads slander is a fool.*

f. **We deceive by misrepresenting ourselves or our situation.**

*Gen. 27:18-29: Jacob lied to his blind father Isaac, claiming to be the first born Esau*

g. **We lie by fraud.**

*Prov. 11:1. A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight*

h. **We lie about being a liar.**

*Prov. 16:2 All the ways of a person are clean in his own sight, But the Lord examines the motives.*

i. **Lie with no concern for what is right or hurting others.**

*23:10-11. Do not move the ancient boundary Or go into the fields of the fatherless,  
<sup>11</sup>For their Redeemer is strong; He will plead their case against you.*

j. **Lie by false flattery.**

*Prov. 29:5*

*A man who flatters his neighbor Is spreading a net for his steps.*

k. **Mocks justice.** Laws mean nothing. Blatantly violate oaths.

*Prov. 19:28.*

*A worthless witness makes a mockery of justice, And the mouth of the wicked [a]swallows wrongdoing*

**Proverbs describes not one who happens to tell a lie, but a LIAR. The medical field describes this habitual liar as follows**

- A pathological liar is often goal-oriented (i.e., focused, one tells lies to get their way).
- They have very little regard or respect for the rights and feelings of others.
- They are often considered manipulative and cunning.
- They create extravagant stories that may be maintained or tweaked over time, and they often believe their own lies or have a weak grip on reality.
- Unlike the compulsive liar, pathological liars are near impossible to catch in the act. These people are excellent liars because they lie constantly and make stories up unnecessarily, and often, it becomes extremely difficult to distinguish the truth from false statements.
- Pathological liars know how to be confident while lying and use their pathological lying trait as a defense mechanism (e.g. they fix their gaze upon you rather than looking away).
- Some of the symptoms of a pathological liar are:

- they lie to gain something,
- they exaggerate things, they keep on changing their stories, and they live in a false sense of ‘reality.’
- If confronted, they act defensive and never admit that they are liars.
- Lastly, they hold no value for truth

### 3. What God wants us to know about lying to urge us to repent.

#### 1. It is diabolical. It Follows Satan’s example

##### a. Satan is the father of lies.

- Gen. 3:4 Satan’s first lie to Eve: “You will not die.”
- John 8:44.

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

#### 2. It is deadly.

##### a. Leads to social misery – effects of rulers lying

- Lying rulers cause all those under them to become wicked.

Prov. 29:4

*The king gives stability to the land by justice, But a person who takes bribes ruins it.*

Prov. 29:12

*If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, All his ministers become wicked.*

##### b. Leads to relational misery – it is contrasted with those who are blessed. God calls relationships to be based on speaking truth in love to one another. (Eph. 4:15,25)

##### c. It leads to satanic deception – 2 Thess. 2:8-12

God will allow the world to be deluded by The Lie of Satan because they refused the truth

<sup>8</sup> Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His <sup>[a]</sup>coming; <sup>9</sup> that is, the one whose <sup>[b]</sup>coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false <sup>[c]</sup>signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with <sup>[d]</sup>all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved. <sup>11</sup> For this reason God <sup>[e]</sup>will send upon them <sup>[f]</sup>a deluding influence so that they will believe <sup>[g]</sup>what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that they all may be <sup>[h]</sup>judged who did not believe the truth, but <sup>[i]</sup>took pleasure in wickedness.

##### d. Lying leads to a seared conscience

1 tim.4:2. *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

##### e. Lying has a sinful effect on children.

- Prov. 20:7

*A righteous person who walks in his integrity—How blessed are his sons after him.*

- Isaac lied about Rebekah being his sister just like his dad did. Ge. 26:6-7

##### f. Results in God’s discipline: sorrow. Eg. David was miserable when he didn’t confess his adultery and murder to cover it up.

Ps 38:2-4,17-18

*For Your arrows have sunk deep into me, And Your hand has pressed down on me.*

<sup>3</sup> *There is no healthy part in my flesh because of Your indignation;*

*There is no health in my bones because of my sin.*

*<sup>4</sup> For my guilty deeds have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they weigh too much for me.*

*For I am ready to fall, And my <sup>[a]</sup>sorrow is continually before me.*

*<sup>18</sup> For I admit my guilt, I am full of anxiety because of my sin.*

**g. Results in eternal misery. Heaven is a place where there are no liars.**

Rev. 22:15

*For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and the immoral, and murderers, and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices lying.*

12:19

*Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment.*

19:5

*A false witness will not go unpunished, And one who declares lies will not escape*

## 4. What should I do if I am a liar?

**A. Receive Christ. Embrace the truth John 14:6. God bore the wrath Himself for our lies. He became an abomination on the cross.**

**a. God sees all lies and will judge them.**

- i. Ps 44:21 Shall not God search this out? for he knows the secrets of the heart.

**b. Unrepentant lying may indicate you are not saved.**

**o Lying breaks fellowship with God.**

*Isa 59:2-3 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.*

- o **Liars will not enter heaven.** Rev. 21:8: *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death..*

**B. Acknowledge and repent. Put off lying. Eph. 4:25; Stop lying. Col.**

**a. Prov. 28:13. If you confess you will find mercy.**

**C. Replace lying with truth. Eph. 4:25**

*Ps 51:6. Behold, thou desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*

**D. Don't lie out of fear of loss. Trust in God. 1 Peter 5:7**

- a. **Replace fear w. trust.** Eg. Abraham lying about Sarah being his sister. Eg. Sarah lying that she laughed when heard the angel promise a baby. Gen. 12:11-15; 18:15: 20:1-2

- b. **Replace pride with humility and thankfulness. We can lie about our accomplishments** our of pride and desire for man's applause.

*Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*

- c. **Replace lying with speaking truth in love**

*Eph. 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*