

THE WISDOM OF TRUTH-TELLING

Proverbs 12:17, 22; 13:5

- **A struggle with dishonesty keeps many people from having successful lives and relationships.**
- *"An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells lies."* (Proverbs 12:17)
- *"The LORD detests lying lips, but He delights in those who tell the truth."* (Proverbs 12:22)
- *"The godly hate lies; the wicked cause shame and disgrace."* (Proverbs 13:5)
- **Although most of us detest being lied to, lying has become an accepted part of our culture and lives.**
- **Lying is always an indication that the Devil is at work in our lives.**
- Jesus – *"You are the children of your father, the Devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He...has always hated the truth. There is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character, for he is a liar, and the father of lies."* (John 8:44)
- **Lying brings deception, discouragement and defeat to our lives and others lives (Psalm 52:2, 55:21, 120:5; 1 John 1:6-10; Matthew 12:37).**
- **The Lord wants His children to be honest individuals at all times.**
- ***What steps can we take to become completely honest individuals?***

Becoming A Completely Honest Individual Requires:

UNDERSTANDING OUR <u>REASONS</u> FOR NOT TELLING THE TRUTH

- ***Why do many people tell lies when telling the truth would be better?***
- **Sometimes people tell lies because of their desire to *Conserve Energy.***
    - **Laziness is the motivation behind this type of lie.**
    - *"A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things."* (Proverbs 18:9)

- **Sometimes people tell lies because of their desire to *Escape Consequences*.**
    - **Fear is the motive for lying to escape consequences.**
    - *"Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety."* (Proverbs 29:25)
- **Sometimes people tell lies because of their desire to *Impress Others*.**
    - **Pride and insecurity cause us to lie to impress others.**
    - *"Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall."* (Proverbs 16:18)
    - *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* (James 4:6)
    - **We also tell these types of lies to cover up our hurts.**
- **Sometimes people tell lies because of their desire to *Manipulate Others*.**
    - **Self-centeredness is the motivation behind manipulative lies.**
    - Jesus - *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it."* (Luke 9:23-24)
- **Sometimes people tell lies because of their desire to *Hurt Others*.**
    - God – *"I will not tolerate people who slander their neighbors."* (Psalm 101:5)
    - **Resentment and bitterness are the motives for slander, and if we don't overcome those negative emotions they will corrupt our souls (Hebrews 12:14-15).**
- ***What kind of lies do I sometimes tell and what do those lies say about me?***

Becoming A Completely Honest Individual Requires:

BEING <u>RESOLVED</u> TO BEING A TRUTH-TELLER

- ***How does a godly honest person communicate with others?***
- **Honest individuals are committed to *Telling the Truth Consistently*.**
    - **Being honest 80% of the time is not integrity.**
    - *"Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds."* (Colossians 3:9)
    - **Honesty is to be a lifestyle for us.**
- **Honest individuals are committed to *Telling the Truth Compassionately*.**
    - **Being honest doesn't require being brutal.**
    - *"We will speak the truth in love..."* (Ephesians 4:15)
    - *"Be kind, tenderhearted..."* (Ephesians 4:32)
- **Honest individuals are committed to *Telling the Truth Carefully*.**
    - **Tact is essential to sharing "hard truths" with others.**

    - *"The wise are known for their understanding, and pleasant words are persuasive."* (Proverbs 16:21)
- **Honest individuals are committed to *Telling the Truth Completely.***
    - **A "half-truth" is a "whole lie" (1 Samuel 15, Acts 5:1-11).**
- *"The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in those who tell the truth."* (Proverbs 12:22)
- **We need to bless God and others by always seeking to tell the truth courageously, compassionately and completely.**
- ***What are some steps that I need to take to better tell the truth to others?***

- **People tell lies because their hearts are not right.**
- Jesus – *"Evil words come from an evil heart . . . For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all other sexual immorality, theft, LYING, and slander. These are what defile you."* (Matthew 15:19-20)
- **To become honest individuals we must:**
    - **Acknowledge the dishonesty in our lives (Proverbs 28:13)**
    - **Ask the Lord to forgive us and change us (1 John 1:9)**
    - **Acquire some support from Christian friends (Proverbs 27:17)**
- *"The king is pleased with words from righteous lips; he loves those who speak honestly."* (Proverbs 16:13)
- **The only way to become a completely honest individual is by getting a "new heart," and the only one who can give us a "new heart" is the Lord.**
- The Lord - *"I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow My decrees and be careful to obey My regulations."* (Ezekiel 36:26-27)