

How Does God Feel About White Lies?

If there is a sin into which it is very easy to fall, it is the sin of lying. It is so easy to lie, for example, to get out of trouble, that many of us have become used to, and experts in the "art" of not telling the truth. Sometimes we may say half lies, in occasions we may say big lies; but the fact is that this "small" sin is all too common in the lives of too many believers around the world. Someone once told me: "If somebody is on the phone asking for you, and you don't want to talk to him (her), just go to another room in the house and tell, whoever got the phone, to say: "He's not here," this way you are not lying, because you are not actually in that room." May God have mercy on us! Because He who knows the heart cannot be fooled nor mocked.

Our human tendency is to think that lying is a "small" sin, with which God must not have much of a problem. However, the Bible says just the opposite. In fact, it says that God hates it with passion.

Let's take a look at the Word: In John 8:44 Jesus taught that the devil is the father of lies. He said that when Satan "...lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (Jn. 8:44, NIV) Think about this, when we, Children of God, lie, we speak nothing but the devil's own language! No wonder the Lord tells us to "... throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception ... put away all falsehood and "tell your neighbor the truth" because we belong to each other." (Eph. 4:22,25 NLT)

To further make us realize how serious this sin of lying is, the Bible says that "There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him..." In this list the second thing is: "a lying tongue," and the sixth one is: "a false witness who pours out lies." (Prov 6:16-19 NIV) So, lying is included twice in the list, which gives us an idea of how much the Lord really hates it. What, then, should we do once we realize how serious and detestable this sin really is in God's sight? I suggest that we should hate it as much as He does! Not giving any place to lying and deception in our lives, but on the contrary, being truthful and honest people in the small things and in the big things. For example:

- Never tell someone: "I'll pray for this situation," unless you intend to do it. (Col. 3:9)
- Don't say: "I'll be there," and then don't go. "Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Matt. 5:37 NIV)
- Don't pretend to be what you are not. (Prov. 12:9)
- Don't tell someone: "I love you," and, then, go behind that person's back to talk bad about him (her), because love does not gossip! (Prov. 10:18)
- Do not flatter people. (Prov. 26:8) It is one thing to offer a heartfelt praise to someone, and quite another to flatter people in order to get something out of them.

Dear friend, let us always speak the truth no matter what. May the world know us because we are honest people who don't compromise our integrity by lying to get out of trouble and/or to look good. Sure, being honest may cost us time, friends, perhaps prestige or even money, but our God is worth it. If He gave it all for us on the cross in order "to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right," (Titus 2:14b NLT) how can we practice such

a detestable sin in His eyes? For "The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful." (Prov 12:22, NIV)

So, the question for us today, is this: If there is any trace of lying in our lives, are we willing to eradicate it completely from us in order to please our Lord? Is He really worth it? You bet He is!

In the love of Christ,

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