

Proverbs 25:13- “Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.”

Growing up, one of my favorite parts about the weekend was having a friend stay over at my house and walking down to the store to buy treats and snacks for the movie we would watch that night. In the mid-1990’s, we could buy three big candy bars for \$1 and a big bag of chips for about the same price. This allowed us to stock up on junk food for the night for only a dollar or two.

I remember one night, my friend John and I (We are still friends to this day), walked down to the store, and bought a bunch of candy for the evening. When we approached my house, we saw my dad out watering the lawn. For some reason we still can’t figure out today, we decided to hide the bags of candy in the bushes and tell my dad we were just out walking in the neighborhood and come back and get the candy later (If you knew my dad, he would be the last person that would care how much candy we ate). We stashed the candy, told my dad we did not go to the store and went inside.

About 30 minutes later, my dad came inside holding the bags of candy and was upset. He knew that this candy was ours and wanted to know why we had lied to him. We couldn’t really give an answer to him. My dad hated lying – absolutely despised it. He would always say: “Lying is just like stealing because you are stealing the truth!”

And he is right!

While this incident was over 30 years ago, the lessons I learned that night still stay with me. First, I learned that it is part of my sinful nature that led me to lie for no reason at all. Second, that my sins do affect others and the trust that people have placed in me. While on the surface, candy would seem like a silly reason to be mad, but it has nothing to do with the candy and everything to do with the lie.

Trust takes time to build and can be destroyed in a moment. As Christians, it is important that we have the trust of our community, trust of our circle of influence, trust of our family, and trust of our church. This trust must be protected, and we do this by carefully and prayerfully calculating our decisions. Christians should be the most trustworthy people in society and model what integrity looks and acts like. While it’s not always easy, it is always worth it.

Let's prayerfully consider how we can be trustworthy before Christ and before man all for the glory of God!

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg