

**BOTTOM LINE WITH GOD'S WORD  
FOR MEN #47**

**Theme: "Lies and Deceit"**

**Scripture: Colossians 3:9-10 (NIV)** *"Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10) and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who create him."*

**A Thought:**

**How often do we utter a lie on any given day? Stop counting - you're embarrassing Pinocchio and God is not too happy with either of us. Is it always a lie when we speak an untruth? The question is debatable. In a few words this is what Augustine has to say...it is not necessarily what you utter or even opine he says...if you believe in your mind the utterance is not a falsehood or deception. So, what constitutes a lie? According to Webster's dictionary: 1) False statement with the intent to deceive 2) False impression or action with the intent to deceive 3) False statement to evade the truth 4) Invention of a false story or excuse to deceive. The fact is we love to lie and the more often we do it the easier it gets. Correct? In today's world lying has become normal. Media news are filled with stories of local, regional, national and international deceivers of the truth. Bringing it home all we have to do is look in the mirror...hmm! Gents, ethically and moralistically we are as confused as a hamster on a turn wheel. Daily we confront the agony of deceitfulness e.g., an adulterous affair, alcohol and substance abuse, broken promises, excuses for being (late to work, school, meetings), tax and test cheating and the list goes on. Not only do we lie to others but we lie to ourselves...Bible study, church attendance, church ministry, diet programs and personal behavior issues. All great intentions - but never kept. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. 1 John 3:18 (ESV) *"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."***

**Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.**

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**Talk to yourself:**

- How often do you lie? What is the predominate reason for a given lie?
- Is lying second nature to you? Are you remorseful after you have lied?
- Have you experienced consequences due to your lies? What is truth?
- Discuss the importance of character and integrity with someone.

**Scriptures to read:**

- Matt 5:33-37; Acts 5:1-11; Col 3:9-10; Lev 19:12; Prov 6:16:19, 10:19, 12:19, 19:5, 25:18; Deu 23:21-23; Num 30:2-5; Eccl 5:4-5; James 5:12; Exodus 12:5; Psalm 119:160; Proverbs 16:11; Luke 16:10

**Quote: Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Russian Author, The Brothers Karamazov**

*“Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect he ceases to love.”*

**Adolf Hitler** - *“If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.”*

**Bottom Line:**

**God has disdain for pompous jerks and lying tongues and especially those who utter lies and who are purveyors of ill-will. God is clear on this admonition. Why is it that God permits so many of our spiritual figures to lie and to get away with it? Do they really? God knows all the wrong things we do and this includes lying. Listen to God's warning in Proverbs 6:16-19 (NLT) “There are six things which the Lords hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him, 17a) Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, 18a) A heart that devises wicked plans and 19) A false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.” Gents, as Christ followers we are the embodiment of His grace and we need to manifest His love with truth, good character and a wellspring of integrity. We must follow His lead. Hebrews 6:18 (NLT) “So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie.”**

**NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

**Spiritual Dabbler,**

**Your bro, Ray**

