

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Lies People Tell Themselves

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In I John 1 and 2, John the Apostle covers areas that many are not completely honest with themselves about. These areas include:

- When Christians claim to be in fellowship with God, but are not!

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:” I John 1:6

Many times folks fool even themselves into believing that they can talk to God, He is listening to them, answering them, and they are in full fellowship even when they are involved in sin. They are lying to themselves.

It is impossible for a believer to have close fellowship with God, when there is sin in his life! God hates sins, and although people do not lose their salvation when they fall for sin's enticement after they are saved, they certainly grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30). That grieving will keep the sinner from having a close relationship with God. The only remedy for that broken relationship is to turn from sin (Acts 8:22), and again

“... walk in the light ...” (I John 7). One should then live in the manner God requires.

- When Christians claim to have no sin.
“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

I John 1:8

There are those that consider themselves sin-free. Christians are saved from sin, but not sinless. They often choose to sin.

- When a person, who claims to be a believer, does not keep God’s commandments. John called that one a liar (I John 1:4). God’s truth was not in him when he did not do the things that God had commanded him to do.

Going through life as a Christian, our ears, eyes, and discernment are often on others that claim the same faith. We are confused when we hear their profession of faith; yet clearly see that they are not living the life they are supposed to live. Although we scratch our heads at one that says one thing but lives another, the Holy Spirit through the Apostle’s writing simply says “... the truth is not in them.”

- When one claims to be a child of God, but hates other saved people. God says one that does not love the brethren “... is in darkness even until now” (I John 1:9). If one is saved, he should love the other members of the family of God. Real love puts up with a lot, is kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not prideful, does not cause one to act improperly, does

not get mad quickly, does not think the worst about another, is not happy when a person does wrong, believes people, has hope for them, and never stops (I Cor.13:4-8). Getting bitter, holding a grudge, and wishing bad things on others are not signs of love — no matter what one claims!

- When people love this world more than anything. They are also fooling themselves. "... If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15) — no matter what they say!
- Another deceiver is one that says Jesus is not the one God promised to come (I John 1:22). Some of the most popular religions, when examined, are deceptive in this area. Some even claim to be Christian, but say Jesus was just a good man, a prophet, a good example, but not God's only Son. No matter the cult's popularity and numbers, as far as God is concerned (and no other opinion really matters), they are liars (vs. 22).

There is much deception in this world. Sometimes people even deceive themselves. However, adhering to what God says in His Word and using it as a guideline make it possible to see what is of God, and what is not. If actions and words line up with the Word of God, then it is of God. Anything opposing it is not of Him. God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33).

"As truth stretches, trust breaks!"

Three Will Know

Author Unknown

A Chinese convert, newly brought to the faith, was being tempted by one of his countrymen to cheat. Upon his refusal, his tempter asked why he would not cheat.

“Because three will know that I cheated,” replied the Christian. “You will know, and I will know, and Heaven will know.”

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

Hebrews 4:13

Troublesome Lies

Edited from an Article by Addison (1871)

Truth is always consistent with itself and needs nothing to help it. It is always easy to remember, and is ready to drop out of our mouths before we are aware. Very rarely are we embarrassed for telling it!

A lie, however, is troublesome. The liar cannot relax as he has always to remember to whom he has told what. Another lie is often required to defend the others.

Lying is much like a building built upon a terrible foundation. It continually needs propping up, supports, and an attentive eye on its stability. Usually the building

will collapse, as will the fabrications of a liar. It is so much easier just to tell the truth!

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

Proverbs 6:16-19

Reward of Honesty

Edited from an Article by F. W. Robertson

Christian businessmen often complain that their honesty is a hindrance to their success. They see the amount of money that pours into the coffers of less scrupulous businessmen, while they have much longer to wait for their honest living to come.

Do you think that God is always going to reward honor, integrity, and honesty with this world's coin? Do you believe that He will pay spiritual excellence large amounts of money?

Now consider the price that the unmoraled, less scrupulous businessman is paying for his “success”. Perhaps he is paying for his dishonesty by having mental degradation and inward dishonor. Maybe he has to take pills to sleep at night. His advertisements are all deceptive. His treatment of his workmen is poor. His cheap prices are made possible by inferior articles. Sow that man's

seed, and you will reap that man's harvest. Cheat, lie, advertise dishonestly, be unscrupulous in your business transactions, and money will come to you; but at what price?

If the price that he will pay is too much for you to pay, let him have his harvest, and take your own reward. Your reward will be a clear conscience, a pure mind, pride in what you are doing, no guilt, and God's hand of blessing. Will you part with that for his pittance? Then why do you complain? He will pay his price. Hopefully, you will not choose to pay his price also.

“Honesty is the best policy!”