

# The Old Hickory

## Bulletin

### Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

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## STOP LYING TO EACH OTHER!

Lying is as common as rain. It has characterized every society in every age since Creation. The reputation of some societies has been tainted by wide-spread lying (Titus 1:12). It seems as if young children learn a habit of lying and misrepresentation in early childhood, defeating the desires of their parents for the cultivation of honesty and trustworthiness in their young. Lying is a plague that has infected every country of the world.

**Lying is a sin** that is opposed to the “newness of life” (Rom. 6:4) that characterizes the Christian. Paul reminded the Colossian Christians, “Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--” (Col. 3:9-10). To the Ephesian Christians, Paul admonished, “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, *speaking truth each one of you with his neighbor, ...*” (Eph. 4:25a). Following the Lord Jesus Christ, Christians must never under any circumstances turn aside from the truth. Christians must never lie against or about anyone, fellow-Christians or unbelievers!

**Lying is a form of deception**, and it does not take the Bible student very long to see how his God feels about this evil practice. Proverbs 6:17 says that “a lying tongue” is an abomination to God. Satan, mankind’s Adversary, was the very first liar, and Jesus said that he “does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44). Those who practice lying show their relationship, not to Christ, but to Satan.

One is guilty of lying when he tells a deliberate or intentional falsehood, and that seems to be the most obvious violation. But lying with our words is not the only way to be guilty of deception. One may also use actions (see 1 John 1:6) with the intent to deceive or defraud. Let’s consider some ways:

(1) **Half-Truth.** We may tell something that is technically correct, all the while deliberately leaving out facts or important details in order to influence a false conclusion on the part of others. This is exactly what Joseph’s brothers did after they sold him into slavery, took his coat, dipped it in animal blood and took it to their father Jacob, who concluded that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. The brothers led Jacob to this false conclusion, even though they never came out and verbally stated it. (Gen. 37:31-33). Many people are infected by carelessness in speech, saying things they are not absolutely sure that they are true and accurate. These transgressions are very serious to the Lord!

(2) **Hypocrisy.** John said that if a person says, “I know God,” but that person “does not keep His commandments,” he “is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” (1 John 2:4). Many people profess their dedication to God, while they sin against God with no intention of correcting it. God calls them liars!

(3) **Flattery.** Flattery is building someone up by insincere praise from impure motives, such as self-interest, personal advantage or intent to

misrepresent. Psalm 62:4 says, “They have counseled only to thrust him down from his high position; They delight in falsehood; They bless with their mouth, But inwardly they curse.” Have we lead someone to believe that we think very well of them when that is not at all the case? God calls this falsehood!

(4) **Lying has many forms.** The prophet of God said, “‘Everyone deceives his neighbor And does not speak the truth, They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves committing iniquity. Your dwelling is in the midst of deceit; Through deceit they refuse to know Me,’ declares the LORD.” (Jer. 9:5-6). Common forms of deceit are blame shifting, allowing false statements to go unopposed, idle gossip, suggesting something bad about someone else without actually saying it, making false impressions, helping to spread rumors and boasting. Have you ever concealed some defect in an item you were trying to sell? Have you ever told someone to say to a caller that you are not at home? Have you sought to justify an absence from school or work by saying you were sick when you were not? Have you made promises with no intent to keep them? Have you asked other people to share in your deception, to lie for you in order to protect yourself from unpleasant consequences of doing something you know is wrong?

**Why do people lie?** There are many reasons, but most of the time it boils down to two: *self interest* and a *desire to injure others*. For a deceiver there is usually some personal gain to be had by lying. One may seek by deception to elevate himself at the expense of others. These motives are inconsistent and contrary to “the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:14).

**Fearful consequences await** those who practice lying and deception! John declares what will happen to “all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Rev. 21:8). Truly, “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:31). Friend, do not let the Lord

God find you guilty of lying on the great Judgment Day! “Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” (Isa. 55:6-7). How may we help you to be right with the Lord?

- GFS

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### **Purer in heart, O God**

Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;  
May I devote my life wholly to Thee:  
    Watch Thou my wayward feet,  
    Guide me with counsel sweet;  
Purer in heart, help me to be.

Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;  
Teach me to do Thy will most lovingly;  
    Be Thou my Friend and Guide,  
    Let me with Thee abide;  
Purer in heart, help me to be.

Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;  
Until Thy holy face one day I see:  
    Keep me from secret sin,  
    Reign Thou my soul within;  
Purer in heart, help me to be.

---Fannie Davison

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> Think of your own sins, and you will become more understanding of the sins of others.

- › Friendship cannot endure where one breaches the trust without making amends.
- › The most awesome responsibility on earth is owning a Bible.
- › "*One reason sin flourishes is that it is treated like a cream puff instead of a rattlesnake.*" — Billy Sunday

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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: "*Select From Among You!*" (text: Acts 6:1-6); Sunday evening: Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – *To Whom Does the Kingdom of Heaven Belong?* (Mark 10:13-16).