

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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LIES AND THEIR VARIATIONS

Larry R. Ping II

The Bible points out, very clearly, “*all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone*” (Rev. 21:8). Unfortunately, our society has erroneously established a lie-grading scale. We have “white lies.” We have lies, which if told, will not harm anybody, and hence do not amount to sin. And there are many more in between these and around them. Politicians are notorious for their lies, and such has nearly become accepted as the norm, though it should not. Sadly, members of the Lord’s body lie from time to time, and such should not occur.

Most do not give any thought to the various ways one can tell a lie. There are variations to a lie, and some have become super-skilled in this area. This short article is an attempt to enumerate the variations of lies which can be uttered (in some cases not). May we, as God’s beloved children, determine to “*speak every man truth with his neighbor*” (Eph. 4:25), to be open and honest, even if it means admitting mistakes.

1) Variation #1: Outright Untruth. This, of course, is the most obvious type of lie. It is the one we think most often about. A good Bible example of this is the second son of the farming father. The Bible records, “And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not” (Matt. 21:30). This was an outright lie. This young man, as would we, would do well to recall this warning to those who tell lies, “*God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living*” (Psa. 52:5).

2) Variation #2: Speaking Half-Truths. Some subscribe to the theory, as long as there is some truth in it, it is not a lie. Twice in the life of the faithful patriarch Abraham, he attempted to express half-truths. He did so by having Sarah introduced as his sister, not his wife (Gen. 12:13; Gen. 20:2). Both instances led to near disaster. His son, Isaac, attempted the same thing in Gen. 26:7. It, of course, did not work either. Take note both men endeavored this way for

purposes of self-preservation. Such is the case for most lies. Remember, a half-truth always equals a whole lie. Always!

3) Variation #3: Lying Through Omission. James wrote, “*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin*” (Jam. 4:17). Many are surprised it is entirely possible to tell a lie without ever having opened your mouth. But it is! To not share what you know is pertinent and important information about a given situation or subject, purposely, is to lie by omission. In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira sold their possession, but “*kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet*” (Acts 5:2). These two individuals said absolutely nothing about the money they kept back, although it would have been perfectly fine for them to do so (Acts 5:4). They omitted that fact, and in so doing lied through the omission of relevant information (Acts 5:3). They both died in the space of three hours (Acts 5:5-10) and “*great fear came upon all the church*” (Acts 5:11).

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4)Variation #4: Lying Through Flattery. The Bible has a few things to say about flattery. The Israelites tried this tactic, but *“Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues”* (Psa. 78:36). To flatter someone is to speak well and highly of them and their actions. If it is deserved, so be it. However, often, unnecessary flattering is done either for the purpose of some future repayment, or to hide some sort of negative information. The patriarch Job understood not to use *“flattering titles”* (Job 32:21-22). David pointed out there are some who *“with flattering lips and with a double heart...speak”* (Psa. 12:2) and quickly notified *“The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips”* (Psa. 12:3). Yes, speak kindly, encouragingly, and truthfully with, to and about others. But under no circumstances lie through flattery.

5)Variation #5: Lying While Singing. This is one we most likely give little

thought to. We are commanded to sing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). We are commanded to *“sing with the spirit, and...sing with the understanding”* (I Cor. 14:15). That is, we should give special attention to the words and lyrics we sing. For instance, when you sing “I Will Sing the Wondrous Story,” do you? When you sing “I Want to be a Worker for the Lord,” are you? As you sing “I’m Not Ashamed To Own My Lord,” are you? When you sing, “I Am Praying For You,” are you? When it comes to singing, many folks are not telling the truth. Let it not be you or me!

6) Variation #6: Lying Through Misrepresentation. This may be one of the most prevalent forms of lying today, and perhaps a mixture of the several we have mentioned thus far in this short article. This occurs when I say one thing to one person or group, but feel the need to say something quite different to another. This is done usually in an effort to

conceal real reasons or motives for actions taken or words spoken, commonly ones which are rash and sudden. These are not Christ-like actions, and happen because of pride and ego. Solomon said, *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”* (Prov. 16:18). The apostle noted, *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”* (I Cor. 10:12). Telling the truth is not always easy, yet it is the only route a Christian can and must travel.

Lying usually has a way of catching up with the liar, one way or another. Moses authored, *“be sure your sin will find you out”* (Num. 32:23). And lest elders, deacons or preachers feel they are immune, let it be noted many of these have ruined their reputations, and lost their families as a result of their lying catching up to them. Let it not be so of us!

“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man...” (Col. 3:9).

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288

Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com

Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm