

Sermon Mark S. Aites
WHO IS A LIAR?
(Based on Outline by Tom Holland)

TEXT: PROVERBS 6:16-19

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this passage: 7 things God hates--"lying tongue."
2. One of the most disturbing kind of individuals is a liar.
3. Air Force Cadets: "I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate anyone who does."
4. Having said that, the world has a lot of liars: "To fool the world, tell the truth." (Bismarck)
5. Biblical perspective: Scripture has no love for liars (**Rev. 21:8**).
6. "Who is a liar?" Bible gives us six answers.

DISCUSSION:

I. ONE WHO HAS A LYING TONGUE.

- A. Lie--Defined: "To make an untrue statement with the intent to deceive." "To create a false or misleading impression."
- B. Biblical examples:
 1. Satan: *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it (John 8:44).*
 - 1) Garden of Eden: *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die (Gen. 2:16-17).*
 - 2) Serpent: *And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. and the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die (Gen. 3:2-3).* (He changed one word; a lie caused sin to enter the world.)
 2. Abraham fit the second definition of a lie: "to create a false or misleading impression."
 - 1) When Abraham was at Gerar (**Gen. 20:1ff**), he encountered Abimilech; lied about Sarah; told half truth with the intent to deceive.
 - 2) Abraham told Abimilech that he did this out of fear (**Gen. 20:11**).
 3. Isaac, like father, like son: encountered Abimilech of the Philistines, and again was not open and truthful concerning Rebekah his wife; said she was his sister (**Gen. 26:4-9**).
 4. Jacob was not truthful with Isaac; claimed to be Esau to obtain the blessing (**Gen. 27:18-24**).
 5. New Testament example: Ananias and Sapphira (**Acts 5**) lied about the price of a piece of land.
- C. Modern Day :
 1. People like to say, "I didn't tell a lie; I just didn't tell the truth." (Old Proverb: "Half a fact it a whole falsehood.")
 2. Sometimes people will lie and then say they were just joking.
 3. And yet others try to soften the seriousness of a lie by referring to it as a "little white

lie,” as opposed to a “whopper.”

4. And still others are inconsistent in what they say and do.
- D. One answer then to our question is one who has a lying tongue; whose intent is to deceive.

II. ONE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD BUT WALKS IN DARKNESS (1 JOHN 1:6-7).

- A. *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:6-7).*
- B. The writer’s contrast makes the point: one can claim to be godly and be totally contrary to the claim.
- C. To falsely make such a claim is to walk in darkness.
 1. Jesus: *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life (John 8:12).*
 2. Darkness -- figure of sin; contrary to the light.
 3. **Eph. 5:11** *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*
- D. To walk in the light and have fellowship with God, one must live for God each day of his life.
 1. We must be just as much be a Christian on Monday as Sunday.
 2. Not like the old saying: “Some people live for the Lord on Sunday and live for the devil on Monday.”
 3. **2 Cor. 3:1ff** Paul speaks of Christians as epistles (letters) of Christ. It would be terrible if our letters said we were liars because we claim to have fellowship with God but walk in darkness.
- E. Hypocrisy is a terrible thing:
 1. *Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me (Matt. 15:7-8).*
 2. Jesus later referred to them as *whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness (Matt. 23:27).*
 3. It is a tragedy when people sing, “O how I love Jesus,” but live in such a way to deny it.
- F. Who then is a liar? One who claims to have fellowship with God, who claims to be His child, but walks (lives) in darkness.

III. ONE WHO SAYS HE HAS NO SIN (1 JN. 1:8-10).

- A. *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us (1 John 1:8-10).*
- B. Not only is it a lie for us to say that we have no sin; but such a claim also makes God a liar, who plainly tells us that we are not without sin.

- C. In John's day there were Gnostics; they were heretics who claimed that they were above sin.
- D. No matter who you are, you are not above sin (cf. **Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:10,23; 6:23**).
- E. **Illus.** While conducting a survey in Kentucky, I encountered a woman who honestly believed she had never sinned, equating sin with some horrific crime.
- F. For Christians this is a troubling reality.
 - 1. New converts stumble and get discouraged.
 - 2. Some delay becoming a Christian as they expect perfection.
- G. Some who advocate "Once saved, always saved", ignore this passage in favor of **1 John 3:6: Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...**
 - 1. Greek: present tense. (Does not continue to live sinfully)
 - 2. To claim that one cannot sin after becoming a Christian is a lie.
- H. Who then is a liar? One who says he has no sin.

IV. ONE WHO CLAIMS TO KNOW GOD, BUT DOES NOT KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

- A. *He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 John 2:4).*
- B. The Gnostics or heretics claimed to have had a superior knowledge and spiritual insight with the Lord, yet they didn't keep His commandments.
- C. Greek--present tense: "The one who says I have come to know Him, and does not continue to keep His commandments is a liar."
 - 1. John was not inferring here that these heretics were guilty of disobedience on a one-time basis. This was on going.
 - 2. By their very manner of life, they made themselves liars.
- D. Just because one claims to have superior knowledge of spiritual and religious matters does not mean that they have a good and true relationship with God.
 - 1. *...let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ... (Phil. 1:27).*
 - 2. *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (James 1:22).*
 - 3. *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (James 2:14); add Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:21.*
 - 4. To claim to know God and neglect His commandments makes one a liar.
- E. **John 14:15; Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you (John 15:14).**
- F. Who then is a liar? one who claims to know God but does not keep His commandments.

V. ONE WHO DENIES THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST

- A. *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also (1 John 2:22-23).*
- B. *Hereby know ye that Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world (1 John 4:2-3).*
- C. The Gnostics did not believe that Jesus came in the flesh. They believed that He appeared to have a body, but that He was spirit.

1. Reason: because flesh was evil.
2. But John opened this book by affirming that Jesus did have a body:
That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us (1 John 1:1-2)
- C. Jesus Himself claimed to be the Christ (**John 4:26; 14:6**).
- D. Application for today:
 1. Some today are willing to admit that Jesus was a prophet; which is correct:
For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you. and it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people (Acts 3:22-23).
 2. But people refuse to admit that He was the Messiah; they still wait for one to come.
 3. **Matt. 10:32-33; 16:13ff.**
 4. *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36).*
- E. To deny that Jesus is the Christ is to deny His divinity (**John 1:1-3,14; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:8**).
- F. Who is a liar? One who denies that Jesus is the Christ.

VI. ONE WHO CLAIMS TO LOVE GOD BUT HATES HIS BROTHER.

- A. *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (1 John 4:20).*
- B. John reminds us of a very important principle - that you cannot separate the love for God and the love for man.
 1. The late Guy N. Woods remarked: "It is a characteristic of love to fix one's attention on that which is visible and near; if therefore, one does not love his brother whom he has seen, it is impossible to love God whom one has not seen. If genuine love for man exists, there is a corresponding love for God. Conversely, where one does not love his brother, it is proof that he does not love God."
 2. *And this commandment have we from Him, that he who loveth God love his brother also (1 John 4:21)*
- C. When Jesus was tempted of the lawyer, who asked, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" He responded:
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matt. 22:35-40).
 1. The law and the prophets hang on both concepts together.
 2. One cannot therefore separate his love for God and love for man. God requires both our love for Him, and for one another.
 3. *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:35).*

D. Need to make some application here:

1. Some brethren, even today, claim to love God and yet despise and hate a brother, or brothers.
2. Sometimes from long standing disputes; or because of holding a grudge -- such cannot be pleasing to God.
3. *...whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and thou rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee: leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift (Matt. 5:22-24).*
4. Scriptural charge: *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother (Matt. 18:15).*
5. What we want is a greater love for one another. There certainly needs to be no hatred or hard feelings toward one another.

E. Who is a liar? One who claims to love God but hates his brother.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is a serious matter for one to be a liar.
2. *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Rev. 21:8).*
3. "Every man has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong in his facts" (Baruch)
4. "Time is precious, but truth is more precious than time." (Disraeli)
5. Sometimes the tragedy is that we lie to ourselves.
 1. We convince ourselves that I don't have to do what God asks of me; God will make an exception in my case.
 2. Friends, God is no respecter of persons (**Acts 10:34**).
 3. Are you a Christian? (**Luke 6:46**).
 4. Christians: are you living for God, or are you living a lie?