



Should We EVER Lie?

Colossians 3:9: (NASB) *Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices.*



Lying. Okay, we know it is bad, but is it really always a bad thing? From a parent's perspective, it is one of those things that is perched at the top of the "never do this" list of moral and ethical behavior. With children the boundaries are clear and easy to define, because as we show them the difference between honesty and dishonesty we reinforce what it means to take the high road, to be trustworthy and to be an honest and dependable friend. But what about the myriad of circumstances that arise as we become adults and begin to live in a world that is not awash in a bold contrast of right versus wrong but instead is overwhelmed with delicate

shades of gray - with value judgments, personal rights and the fine line of being offensive? Are "little white lies" always wrong? What about only telling part of the truth - does that constitute a lie as well? Can lying ever be good?

Introduction, (Dis)Honesty, Yael Melamde, *The Truth About Lies*

- (Yael Melamde) *In the last few years, we've been focusing on dishonesty. We watch corporate scandals everywhere - Enron, WorldCom, the financial crisis of 2008. We saw an increase in cheating in professional sports.*
- (Reporter) *Have you ever used steroids?*
- (Various athletes) *No... I have never used steroids... I have never doped.*
- (Yael Melamde) *We witnessed political deception and its usual repercussions.*
- (Courtroom lawyer) *Does the NSA collect any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of Americans?*
- (Man being questioned) *No, sir.*
- (Courtroom lawyer) *It does not?*
- (Man being questioned) *Not wittingly.*
- (Yael Melamde) *On one hand, we want to look at the mirror and think that we are good, honest, wonderful people. On the other hand, we want to benefit selfishly from being dishonest.*

To get a true biblical meaning of lying we need to look at a wide scope of biblical morality starting with the Old Testament.

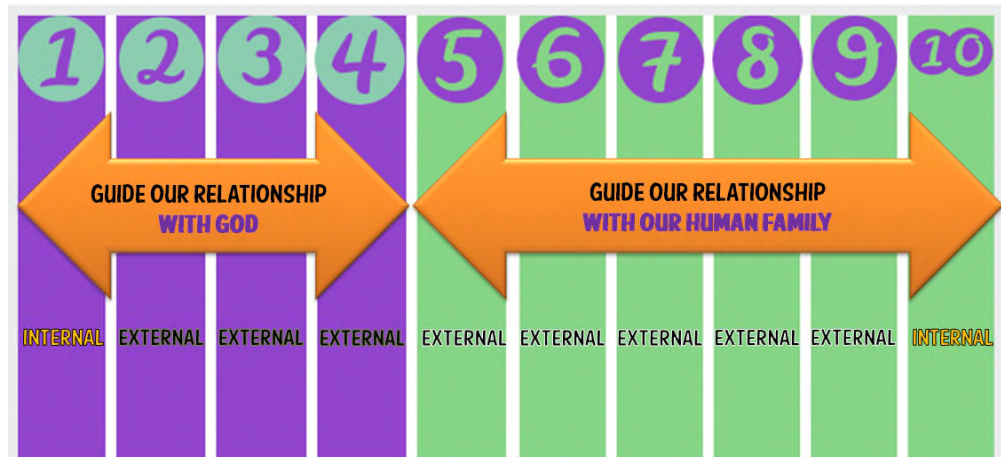
The last six of the Ten Commandments are all about how we are to treat one another:

Exodus 20:12-17: (NASB) ¹²Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor - this directly deals with lying, but we will find all the Commandments deal in some way with telling the truth. The sweeping approach of the Commandments is based on respect.



The first four Commandments are about respect for God; the last six are about respect for those around you.



With this theme for morality set, we go further into the details:

Leviticus 19:11-16: (NASB) ¹¹You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor **lie <8266>** to one another. ¹²You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD. ¹³You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse a deaf man, nor place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall revere your God; I am the LORD. ¹⁵You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly. ¹⁶You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

Lie: Strong's #8266 shaqar (shaw-kar'); to cheat, i.e. be untrue (usually in words)

Cheating as a motivation is an important part of this subject. The Bible does not go into detail about telling a little white lie so as not to make someone feel bad.

The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning - Do not oppress anyone or take from them. A lying, cheating attitude is warned against.

You shall not curse a deaf man, nor place a stumbling block before the blind - Have respect for others and their personal experiences.

I am the LORD - this phrase occurs three times in these verses. God is saying, "Listen to what I am telling you about how to treat each other."

In relation to judgment, the Law in Leviticus says *you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great.* Justice should be applied regardless of status.

So far, we see that lying is much more than just speaking an untruth - it is about cheating on a lot of different levels.

This is mutual respect reiterated with a more detailed approach.



🔊) Why we lie and what to do, *Why Do People Lie, Steven Gaffney, Fox News*

- (Reporter) *Why, then, do Americans lie?*
- (Steven Gaffney) *Well, because they get afraid. A good example, with all due respect to your mom, often people say, "I love honesty." In fact, companies have plaques about it and it's in their vision statement, "We believe in honesty." Then when people tell the truth, leaders get defensive and sometimes people lose their jobs. We say we love honesty but the truth is, we often model behavior that actually encourages people to be dishonest. The good news is there is so much that we can do to fix this situation.*
- (Reporter) *Like what?*
- (Steven Gaffney) *One of the things is to model the behavior that we want and that demonstrates honesty. A good example is companies telling the truth and with full disclosure. Also when people are having a difficult time, that they're upfront about this, and one of the ways we cause people to be dishonest is when we get defensive.*

Lying is often based on the fear of being caught, being discovered or of being "less than."

Where does God stand on this respect and honesty issue?

Proverbs 6:16-19: (NASB) ¹⁶There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷Haughty eyes, a **lying <8267>** tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹a false witness who utters **lies <3577>**, and one who spreads strife among brothers.

Lying: Strong's #8267, sheqer (sheh'-ker); an untruth; by implication, a sham (often adverbial)

Lies: Strong's #3577, kazab kaw-zawb', a lie, untruth, falsehood, deceptive thing

Lying is directly involved in two of seven things the Lord hates and easily implicated in the other five. One could make the argument that all seven have something to do with being deceptive or dishonest.





So, if God hates lying so much, does He ever just overlook it?

🔊 Honesty not brutality, *Why Do People Lie*, Steven Gaffney, Fox News

- *I'm talking about honesty; I'm not talking about brutality. Name calling is not about being honest. In fact, I remember I had a participant in a seminar and she said, "I'm glad you're here, because I believe in honesty and people don't respect honesty in this company." I said, "Why don't you give me an example?" She said, "I tell people when they're a jerk - I tell them they're a jerk." Well, then again, name calling is not what we're talking about. We're talking about telling the truth and something you brought up earlier - when someone says, "It's not you it's me," we all know that's a joke. Why don't we just tell the truth or say, "Look, I don't want to go there," and it's over? Whatever the case is, it's so important to be authentic.*

There are many who seem to find great joy in trying to find what they believe to be contradictions in the Bible, especially when it comes to moral issues. We will look at two such Old Testament accounts here to see if God rewards lying.

Did Israel's midwives lie to Pharaoh? If they did then did God bless their lie?

The context of how Israel got to Egypt and their original honored state:

Exodus 1:8,13-22: (NASB) ⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph... ¹³The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; ¹⁴and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.

Fear not only provokes lying; it also provokes dark and evil plans. The Pharaoh at this time was afraid of the people becoming too large a slave population that could eventually overthrow him.

¹⁵Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah; ¹⁶and he said, When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.



Notice there is no recorded answer given by the midwives. What would YOU do? Would YOU murder the innocent newborns because the king said so?

¹⁷But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.

They could not in good conscience take the lives of those newborn children because they *feared* (revered) *God*. They saw God and His principles as a higher authority than Pharaoh. There was a clear decision to be made which would stand for righteousness and life and perhaps have consequences of personal punishment and even death.

A lot of time would have gone by between verses 17 and 18, for the King was watching and his plan was not working:

¹⁸So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, why have you done this thing, and let the boys live? ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them.



When confronted, they give an answer - it is general and yet specific. They do not address individual experiences; they merely state what happened the majority of the time. Technically they are not lying but they are not telling the whole truth.

(Source: Biblical commentary by Adam Clarke) The midwives boldly state to Pharaoh a fact, (had it not been so, he had a thousand means of ascertaining the truth,) and they state it in such a way as to bring conviction to his mind on the subject of his oppressive cruelty on the one hand and the mercy of Jehovah on the other.

The stated fact: The Hebrew women were really strong. This was plausible from all the hard labor they were subject to for generations. It would be unlikely that every single Hebrew birth at this time was that easy, however. So while they may not have lied, they likely did not tell all of the truth either - is this a good thing?

²⁰So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. ²¹Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive.

Pharaoh must have believed the midwives, as he gives up on the original plan and spreads his fear and anger to his own people instead. God overlooked the partial truth and blessed the midwives. Telling part of the truth for the protection of life was not considered a lie.



Consider from a practical perspective when children are very young and need to be told certain things. They are told only the part of the story appropriate for their age. This is what is best for the child and what they can handle with their limited experience and immaturity.

The Fudge Factor, (Dis)Honesty, Yael Melamde, The Truth About Lies

- *As long as we cheat just a little bit, we don't have to pay any price in terms of the image in the way we view ourselves. And we call this the "fudge factor." This is the ability to misbehave and think of ourselves as good people. And you can think of all kinds of ways in which in your own life you have a fudge factor. The speed limit. Maybe it says 55, but are you okay driving 60? What about cheating a little bit on taxes? What about exaggerating your online dating profile? Across many studies we find that everything that changes the fudge factor also changes people's ability to be dishonest. There are dozens of elements that can change the magnitude of the fudge factor.*





TRUTH CHECKPOINT

Always honor God above all,
knowing His character of justice,
mercy and love.

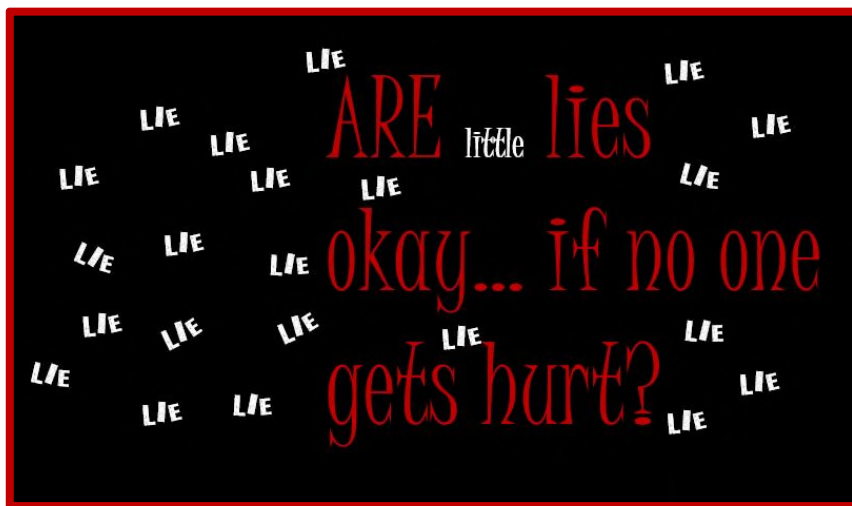
Rahab lied to protect life.

Does the end justify the means? Can lying be a way to do good?

 White lies versus destructive lies, *When is it Okay to Lie*, DNews



- *A white lie is a harmless or trivial falsification usually told to avoid hurting someone's feelings. The researchers call this a "pro-social" lie and they are the good kind. Lies told that are destructive or deceptive; those are "anti-social" lies and they do the exact opposite. They weaken the bonds between individuals and they break down social structure. Lies can make or break us y'all. Using mathematical models the researchers revealed what most of us already know - when an individual participates in anti-social lying, they slowly isolate themselves from their social group, while pro-social liars form stronger bonds and become more integrated. This also extends to online social networks as well. How many times have you clicked "like" without actually liking something online? Maybe you just wanted to support the person even if you disliked what they had written. Rationalize away because that's a white lie, Sistah!*



Little white lies are common



Jewel gives a woman's perspective:



When I was thinking of this topic, it really helped me to examine myself. I think of myself as an honest person who always tells the truth, but it can be those little white lies that can be spoken without thinking that can be just as wrong as deliberately lying.

White represents purity. The word "white" and "lie" do not go together. If you are not sure if something is a white lie, it probably is.

Here are some examples women often come across in relation to white lies - perhaps out of pride or fear. I had hand surgery a little over two weeks ago and had a friend drive me to my follow up doctor's appointment. As we entered the room, the nurse asked me my weight. Why I said five pounds less than my scale showed me that morning, I don't know! I panicked! My friend was in the room and I did not do it deliberately, but it was wrong and bothered me after. That was pride.

Don't feel too bad, Jewel. Men do something similar with the size of the fish they caught!



We can also put our husbands in a position to tell a white lie when we ask them, "Does this outfit make me look fat?" Jonathan does not like when I ask him that, but he has learned to be tactfully truthful.

Along the same line, I love taking a friend clothes shopping with me because she always gives me her honest opinion. When she says something looks good, I know I can trust her.

Another way we can tell a white lie is to say, "I am fine," when something is really bothering us. Do we act like something is fine when it is not so we do not hurt someone's feelings or we do not want to talk about it? I think our spouse or friends will trust us more if we say when there is something on our mind.

Little white lies are often told to keep peace, as if telling the truth would in some way destroy peace. Zechariah 8:19 talks about love, truth and peace, so they do exist together. Tellers of white lies believe they are speaking them out of love, but the Bible tells us to speak the truth in love.

I deal with many women in the workplace and experienced someone telling a lie to someone else more than once in a way that seems sincere. It made me question how often I may have been lied to by her. That person lost my trust. The same thing can happen with us, even if it is a white lie.

We need to keep the trust of others and of our children, even though I work in a children's dental office and am obliged to talk about the Tooth Fairy! "I've heard secretaries or receptionists who have been asked to lie to tell a caller that their boss was not in because their boss does not want to talk to that person. Well that's lying."



We are to apply truth with wisdom just like the midwives did.

In our next Old Testament example, the enemy of Israel is in the land of Jericho. Israel sends spies to look at the land, as God is directing them to settle there.

Joshua sends two spies to Jericho and they come upon Rahab:

Joshua 2:1-14: (NASB) ¹Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, Go, view the land, especially Jericho. So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there. ²It was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land. ³And the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab, saying, Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.

Rahab was not of Israel, therefore her background was not founded in the principles of God's Law. Rahab's occupation as a prostitute was one that was shrouded in darkness, gray areas and half-truths.

⁴But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.



"The Harlot of Jericho and the Two Spies," c. 1836-1902, by James Jacques Joseph Tissot (French) or follower, opaque watercolor, Jewish Museum, New York

So far one could argue that this was true but not complete. Maybe she did not know *exactly* where they came from?

⁵It came about when it was time to shut the gate at dark that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them. ⁶But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷So the men pursued them on the road to the Jordan to the fords; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate.

Rahab pulled the classic deception - "they went that-a-way!" She purposefully misguided the authorities. This certainly fulfills the definition of a lie, but where does it stand relating to what God hates - *a lying tongue and a false witness who utters lies*? Was she trying to hurt her own people by protecting them? Rahab's intention was obvious - protect the strangers from capture, but why?

⁸Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, ⁹and said to the men, I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. ¹⁰For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.



She knew these Hebrew men represented God who was real, powerful and working with them. Her idol-worshipping culture feared this God because they heard of the great battles won in His name and knew they would be the next city to fall. Rahab was fearful and lied to protect these men. Clearly the end was a good result, but how she did it has to come into question.

Rahab knew of God and His deliverance of Israel and BELIEVED in God based on her very limited observations and experience.

¹²Now therefore, please swear to me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father's household, and give me a pledge of truth, ¹³and spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death. ¹⁴So the men said to her, Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the LORD gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.

Her belief was deep enough to put her own life on the line and she asks to be spared as a result.

 **Shredded evidence, (Dis)Honesty, Yael Melamde, The Truth About Lies**

- *(Test mediator) You can just have a seat anywhere with a packet with a pen in front of it.*
- *(Yael Melamde) We gave people 20 simple math problems.*
- *(Test mediator) Find the two numbers that add up to 10.*
- *(Yael Melamde) These are problems that everybody could solve if they had enough time, but we don't give people enough time.*
- *(Test mediator) We are going to give you five minutes to solve as many as possible.*
- *(Yael Melamde) At the end of the five minutes please stop, put your pencil down and count how many questions you got correctly. And now that you know how many questions you got correctly, take the sheet of paper, go to the front of the room and shred it. People do that, they come to the front, they say that they solved six problems, we pay them six dollars, they go home. The shredder shreds the sides of the page but the body of the pages remains intact. What do we find? On average people solved four problems and report to be solving six.*



God blesses Rahab:

Hebrews 11:30-31: (NASB) ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

Rahab was honored for her faith, not her lies! Rahab did the best she knew how within her culture and knowledge. God was able to deal with her. Once she become a convert, she would have been held to a higher standard.



TRUTH CHECKPOINT

Always do the best you know how
to follow God and in time
more will be revealed.

 **White lies feel like lies, *When is it Okay to Lie, DNews***

- The Journal of Consumer Research found that even though they're beneficial to the whole, white lies actually feel like lies to the brain. We know we're being dishonest so we try to fix it or make up for our dishonesty to escape cognitive dissonance. Cognitive dissonance is when your brain thinks one thing and you act differently. Like a bad server at a restaurant asks how your meal was and usually we would lie and say, "It was so good." We save the waiter's feelings, and we keep things on an even keel. According to research into cognitive dissonance, unless the service was really bad, we'll actually then go on to tip more because we want to make up for the lie that we told them. It's silly but it happens on a subconscious level. It's part of our evolution trying to keep our social networks balanced.*



Rick's personal story: I used to work at a cabinet shop and unfortunately, my boss lied a lot. I got a phone call from a customer waiting for their goods and we were way behind in fulfilling the order - the item had not been made yet. My boss saw me across the office on the phone and asked who it was. I whispered back it was "so and so" from "such and such" a company. He stood right in front of my desk and looked me in the eye and said, "Tell him it got damaged when we were putting it on the truck."

I knew that was wrong. But he was standing there, glaring at me, with his hands on his hips. I looked at him in the eye and said to the customer, "We are way behind on the production; it is not even finished yet. I am really sorry about that. Let me see what I can do to help you."

My boss got so mad at me that he stormed out of the room. When he was yelling at me later on, I told him not to do that again because I would not lie for him. I figured if he fired me, so be it, even though I was scared to death to do the right thing.



Now let us look at the New Testament view of lying.

These serve as motivational factors that determine our standing before God when we are in the gray areas of life:

1 Peter 2:21-23: (NASB) ²¹For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in his steps, ²²who committed no sin, nor was any **deceit <1388>** found in his mouth; ²³and while being reviled, he did not revile in return; while suffering, he uttered no threats, but kept entrusting himself to Him who judges righteously;

Deceit: Strongs #1388 dolos dol'-os craft, deceit, guile

Our highest and most reliable example is Jesus who had no deceit in his words. This means there was no deceit in his heart - he was solely about God's truth, God's plan and God's love. He was honest even under immense pressure.



20 big/20,000 little, (Dis)Honesty, Yael Melamde, The Truth About Lies

- *We've run these experiments on 40,000 people and so far we've found about 20 big cheaters. Those are people who cheated on all the way - said they solved 20 problems and they stole \$400 from us. We also found about 20,000 little cheaters and they stole about \$50,000 from us, and I think this is not a bad reflection of reality. Yes, there are some big cheaters out there but they are very rare, and because of that their overall economic impact is relatively low. On the other hand, we have a ton of little cheaters and because there are so many of us, their economic impact of small cheating is incredibly high.*

We should not contribute to the demise of our society by engaging in just "little" lies. We should live with integrity like Jesus.

1 John 1:5-7: (NASB) ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we **lie <5574>** and do not practice the truth; ⁷but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Lie: Strongs #5574 pseudomai (psyoo'-dom-ah-ee); to utter an untruth or attempt to deceive by falsehood

Hypocrisy is lying by not living up to the standard you said you would.



There is a choice. For Christians, there is an absolute dividing line between light and darkness and we choose a side. A fundamental part of lying is ego. The greater the ego, the greater the propensity to lie.

**EGO BREEDS FEAR
FEAR BREEDS LYING
LYING BREEDS GODLESSNESS**

GODLESSNESS BREEDS SORROW

White lies turn a little gray the next time and so on. You end up with different shades of white.

1 John 1:8-10: (NASB) ⁸*If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.* ⁹*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰*If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a **liar <5583>** and His word is not in us.*

Liar: Strongs #5583 pseustes psyoos-tace'

1) a liar 2) one who breaks faith 3) a false and faithless man

We make Him a liar - If we are saying we have not sinned, this means God lied when He said in Romans 3:23: (KJV) For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

For us to publicly walk in a lie of being in the light while still in darkness is to make God a liar. That is an ego issue that must be changed to humility. Jesus was humble and did not make mistakes. How much more humble should we be in our everyday experiences?

James 3:13-18: (NASB) ¹³*Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.* ¹⁴*But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so **lie <5574>** against the truth.* ¹⁵*This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.* ¹⁶*For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.* ¹⁷*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.* ¹⁸*And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*



TRUTH CHECKPOINT

Always be deeply honest about what you stand to gain or lose by revealing, hiding or falsifying certain details of life.



A CQ App user offers encouraging words: Love, love your program. I have learned so much listening to you both. Thanks for all you do.

 **The cheating actor, (Dis)Honesty, Yael Melamde, The Truth About Lies**

- *(Yael Melamde) So, imagine the same experiment I described to you before but with one main difference. We hired an acting student and 30 seconds into the experiment he raises his hand.*
- *(Actor) I got all of them. What do I do?*
- *(Yael Melamde) And they say they solved everything, "What do I do next?"*
- *(Test mediator) Sure, come up here.*
- *(Yael Melamde) Now on this experiment, you are still on question number one. There is no question in your mind that this person is cheating and the experimenter said, "You finished everything; you are free to go." You see that person taking all their amount of money and going home. What would happen to your own morality? Well, lots more people cheat. But there could be two explanations here. One explanation is that we just proved to people in this experiment that there is no downside for cheating. The second possibility is it's not about the fact that they wouldn't catch you; it's about the fact that it's actually socially okay.*

Someone blatantly cheating apparently makes it easier for us to follow in their footsteps. Lying and cheating are contagious social behaviors involving acceptability and peer pressure. Is this following godly principles? No.

Is purposefully withholding some information a form of lying?

God did not tell His chosen everything:

Mark 13:31-33: (NASB) ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. ³²But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.

God did not reveal the time of Jesus' return to even Jesus himself.

Jesus did not tell his followers everything:

John 16:12: (NASB) *I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

Why would God keep the details from Jesus himself and why would Jesus keep the details from his closest followers to himself?

Just like withholding details from a child, you tell them only what they can bear and what is appropriate for their best benefit.

God and Jesus withholding those particular pieces of information served a higher and nobler purpose, and in the end it was better for everyone. This was wisdom, not lying.

God gives veiled prophecies that we often do not know what they mean until they have been fulfilled. Why? We have to commit ourselves to wanting to know God's will, which is revealed to us in stages. The question of "when" is always longer than we would like it to be, and that can be discouraging.



Joy contributes the following: Many years ago I was a caretaker for an older couple. I did not realize it at first, but the older man had a problem with drinking. One night he stumbled into the house, demanding his keys to the car. I knew he was in no condition to drive. I prayed for wisdom. When he was in the other room looking for the keys, I hid them at the base of a plant in the corner of the room.

He came back in the room and asked me, "Where are my keys?" "I don't see them anywhere," I replied as I generally looked around the room.

He looked around the house for a while and then gave up on the idea. I was very grateful.

Here is an example of not lying but not giving every piece of information either. This was done for the benefit and safety of all involved. Joy protected him and others from tragedy. We can find ways to avoid lies and be protective when necessary.



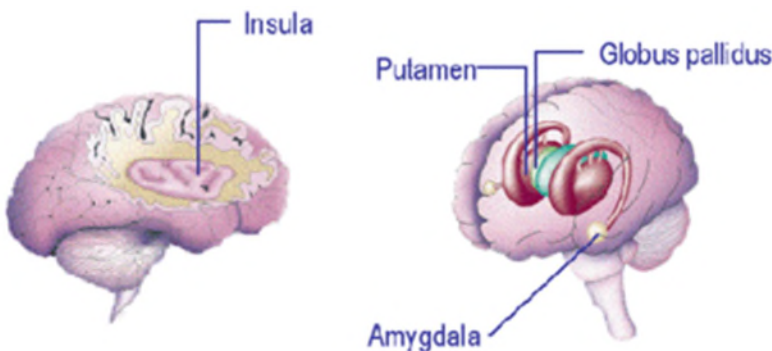
TRUTH CHECKPOINT

When privileged to be in a position of influence, ALWAYS apply the practice of withholding information only with the utmost care.

Be 100% sure that ego is irrelevant, your motivation is pure and the highest and most godly outcome for the other party is paramount.

Brains adapt to lying, (Dis)Honesty, Yael Melamde, The Truth About Lies

- We kind of anecdotally know that once you lie you are more likely to lie again and probably the second lie will be bigger than the first. What we find in the brain is that in the beginning, if you lie a little bit there is a huge response in regions involved in emotion, such as the amygdala and the insula. The tenth time you lie, even if you lie the same amount, the response is not that high. So, while lying goes up over time, the response in your brain goes down. We think the reason that this happens is a very basic principle of the brain, which is the brain adapts.





Continue lying and it will not bother you so much. That extends to sinning as well, where you can condition your brain to believe you are not really doing anything wrong. Habitual lying prevents a finely-tuned conscience that cannot recognize the checkpoints. When our conscience blurs truth and lies, we are going to hurt the people around us.

Is not answering someone a form of lying?

Matthew 26:59-64: (NASB) ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put him to death....two came forward, ⁶¹and said, This man stated, I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days. ⁶²The high priest stood up and said to him, Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against you? ⁶³But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to him, I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God. ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, you have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Jesus never did answer the question, but he did give the high priest a prophetic glimpse of the future.

John 19:8-11: (NASB) ⁸Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid; ⁹and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, Where are you from? But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, you do not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you, and I have authority to crucify you? ¹¹Jesus answered, you would have no authority over me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.

Here again, Jesus did not give an answer but instead defended God's power, telling Pilate to be respectful.



TRUTH CHECKPOINT

Always - when choosing silence - be sure it is the voice of godly behavior and obedience that is present in that silence and not a voice of spite, arrogance or revenge.

So, with all of our checkpoints in place, what will life look like?

 **Ten Commandments, (Dis)Honesty, Yael Melamde, The Truth About Lies**

- (Yael Melamde) We went to UCLA and we asked about 500 undergrads to try and recall the Ten Commandments.
- (Test mediator) We asked people to write down as many of the Ten Commandments as they could remember, and then we put them in a situation where they could cheat with the matrix task.



- (Yael Melamde) *How many do you think recalled all Ten Commandments? Zero, that's right. By the way, they invented lots of interesting ones. What happened after people tried to recall the Ten Commandments - nobody cheated. It wasn't as if the people who remembered more Commandments, the people who were presumably more religious cheated less and the people who remembered almost none of them cheated more - nobody cheated.*
- (Test mediator) *It didn't matter what religion the participants had. You know what the Ten Commandments are about. They are about a moral code, they are about proper behavior, and just knowing that and being reminded about that decreases dishonesty.*

That is amazing! It came down to if they were reminded of something higher, their propensity to cheat was squashed. If in our daily experiences where temptation rises, if you have scripturally-based principles in mind, you are not going to cheat or lie like you may have normally.

The context of our theme Scripture:

Colossians 3:5-17: (NASB) ⁵Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

Be dead to your past actions: All of these things we are dead to can be summed up in one word - idolatry. It is idolatry that brought sin, it is idolatry that feeds our fears and egos and it is *idolatry that makes lying comfortable*. That means putting a god in our head that is not THE God. When we do not have the principles of THE God in our head, our path will not be straight. "I am a changed person by the grace of God, through Jesus."

⁷and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. (Note: these are all emotion driven that should no longer be a part of our existence) ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, ¹⁰and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him,

Put aside your past feelings: Keep those past emotions at arm's length by devouring an understanding of Jesus - who he is, what he did and where his footsteps lead. You can put your feelings far enough away from you where they no longer affect you or override your life.



A caller from Connecticut suggests it takes a lifetime to build a reputation that can be ruined in a matter of seconds. "Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive." (Quoting a poem by Walter Scott)

Paul Harvey told this story years ago on the radio: Tourists were visiting a small village in Mexico that elected as its mayor a small mule. The visitors asked a local priest how this could be? The priest replied, "Yes, we feel he is the only trustworthy creature in town."



¹¹a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Fully embrace equality in Christ: Bask in the beauty of being equal under Christ just as any other true Christian. By embracing this truth, we let go of fear, protectiveness and the temptation to lie.

 **MIT Honor Code, (Dis)Honesty, Yael Melamde, The Truth About Lies**



- *In fact, even when we take self-declared atheists and ask them to swear on the Bible, they stop cheating. It is not about heaven and hell and being caught; it's about reminding ourselves about our own moral fiber. We found this result to be very promising, but we wanted to test it in a nonreligious context. So, we went to MIT and we did a similar experiment with honor codes. So, we got students at MIT to sign the honor code: "I understand that this short study falls under the MIT honor code." They did it, shredded the piece of paper. What happened? No cheating whatsoever. And no cheating whatsoever despite the fact that MIT doesn't have an honor code. (laughter)*

Keeping a high moral standard in front of us greatly reduces the likelihood of cheating and lying. We have the responsibility to "let our light shine" and live with integrity. This will be contagious and rub off on others.

Rick continues the story about his boss: Over the course of several years of locking horns on so many things, he began to tell the truth more and more. He came to me one day and said, "Rick, after all this time, you were right all along." He had a different example.

There is hope in this world of lying and cheating - YOU are that hope! Let your light shine. Show godly principles and see what can happen!

¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Fully engage the qualities of Christ: There is no better way to destroy ungodly thoughts and words than with the crushing weight of goodness, godliness and brotherly love. If we brought these qualities with us everywhere and made them obvious, lying would drain away.

¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Adorn yourself with the benevolent love of God: This highest form of love sweeps away any leftover fragments of an old and broken life that was mired in sin.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Allow Christ's peace full and unfettered access to your heart: This peace, given time and authority, will overwhelm and eliminate fear and restlessness.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.



Permit the words of Jesus to take up permanent residence in your heart and mind: By so doing, we are able to be continually reminded of the power of Christ in our lives so our focus stays strong.

¹⁷Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Be thankfully transformed! To get out of the habit of lying even a little bit, check yourself with the Checkpoints we reviewed but also realize all of the blessings you receive are a gift and you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you!

We should never lie. If we do, there is forgiveness but we must be responsible to attempt to transform ourselves. We rely on the power of God by putting His principles of godliness in front of us, reminding us that truthfulness, respect and integrity make up a wonderful life in Christ.

*So, should we EVER lie?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition of CQ Rewind!***



It was a sunny Saturday afternoon and Bobby Lewis was taking his two little boys to play miniature golf. He walked up to the fellow at the ticket counter and said, "How much is it to get in?" The young man replied, "\$3.00 for you and \$3.00 for any kid older than six. It's free for those six or younger. How old are they?" Bobby replied, "The young one's three and the older one is seven, so I guess we owe you \$6.00." The man behind the counter said, "You could have saved yourself three bucks by telling me the older one was six; I wouldn't have known the difference." Bobby replied, "Yes, that may be true, but the kids would have known the difference." --*Chicken Soup for the Soul*, p. 103.

Colossians 3:9,10,14: (Living Bible) ⁹*Don't tell lies to each other; it was your old life with all its wickedness that did that sort of thing: now it is dead and gone.* ¹⁰*You are living a brand new kind of life that is continually learning more and more of what is right and trying constantly to be more and more like Christ who created this new life within you.*

1 Peter 3:8-11: (Living Bible) ⁸*...be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.* ⁹*Don't repay evil for evil. Don't snap back at those who say unkind things about you. Instead, pray for God's help for them, for we are to be kind to others, and God will bless us for it.* ¹⁰*If you want a happy, good life, keep control of your tongue, and guard your lips from telling lies....* ¹⁴*God will reward you.*



(Source: Biblical commentary by Adam Clarke) There is a lax morality in the world that recommends a lie rather than the truth when the purposes of religion and humanity can be served by it. But when can this be? The religion of Christ is one eternal system of truth, and can neither be served by a lie nor admit one. He goes on to say that the next [false] step is to say: Let us do evil that good may come of it - which was one of the accusations leveled against the Apostle Paul by his critics.

Is obeying God rather than men an open door to lying in order to protect God's will and work?

NO! It is an open door to do the will of God in a godly manner:

Acts 5:25-31: (NASB) ²⁵But someone came and reported to them, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people! ²⁶Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned). ²⁷When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, we must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging him on a cross. ³¹He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Previous context of the above verses was the fate of Ananias and Sapphira who died in the presence of the congregation as a result of their lies and deceit.

Romans 6:12-19: (NASB) ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

Philippians 1:27-30: (NASB) ²⁷Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. ²⁹For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake, ³⁰experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Some background on Jacob and Rebekah deceiving Isaac. As usual, there is more to this story than meets the eye:

Genesis 25:19-34: (NASB) ¹⁹Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham became the father of Isaac; ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. ²¹Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. ²²But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³The LORD said to her, Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger.



A clear prophecy of future events regarding the passing on of the promise:

²⁴When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them. ²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents. ²⁸Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

The making of a sibling rivalry:

²⁹When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; ³⁰and Esau said to Jacob, Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished. Therefore his name was called Edom. ³¹But Jacob said, first sell me your birthright.

Jacob's response seems clearly tied to the prophecy his mother would have taught him about.

³²Esau said, Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?

Esau's character begins to be revealed - the birthright was the key to the blessing of Almighty God upon this chosen family and the key to God's very plan of salvation!

³³And Jacob said, first swear to me; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

Jacob's response is to legalize the matter - to make it an irrevocable transaction. This would have challenged the integrity of Esau - would have caused him to think clearly about what was going to happen... Esau, seemingly without hesitation legalizes the transaction.

³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way.

Jacob fulfills his end of the transaction and Esau simply leaves as his true desire was fulfilled.

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Esau had held his birthright with contempt, without the sacred meaning of it, without the sacred protection needed for it and without the sacred and personal application of its privilege...

Some commentaries put the age of Isaac at 136 and Jacob at 77 for this chapter:

Genesis 27:1-46: (NASB) *¹Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, My son. And he said to him, here I am. ²Isaac said, Behold now, I am old and I do not know the day of my death. ³Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me; ⁴and prepare a savory dish for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die. ⁵Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring home, ⁶Rebekah said to her son Jacob, Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying, ⁷Bring me some game and prepare a savory dish for me, that I may eat, and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death. ⁸Now therefore, my son, listen to me as I command you. ⁹Go now to the flock and bring me two choice young goats from there, that I may prepare them as a savory dish for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰Then you shall bring it to your father that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death. ¹¹Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. ¹²Perhaps my father will feel me, then I will be as a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing. ¹³But his mother said to him, your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me. ¹⁴So he went and got them, and*



brought them to his mother; and his mother made savory food such as his father loved. ¹⁵Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her elder son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. ¹⁶And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷She also gave the savory food and the bread, which she had made, to her son Jacob. ¹⁸Then he came to his father and said, My father. And he said, Here I am. Who are you, my son? ¹⁹Jacob said to his father, I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Get up, please, sit and eat of my game, that you may bless me. ²⁰Isaac said to his son, how is it that you have it so quickly, my son? And he said, because the LORD your God caused it to happen to me. ²¹Then Isaac said to Jacob, Please come close, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not. ²²So Jacob came close to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, the voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau. ²³He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. ²⁴And he said, Are you really my son Esau? And he said, I am. ²⁵So he said, Bring it to me, and I will eat of my son's game, that I may bless you. And he brought it to him, and he ate; he also brought him wine and he drank. ²⁶Then his father Isaac said to him, Please come close and kiss me, my son. ²⁷So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said, See, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed; ²⁸Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, And of the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine; ²⁹May peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you; Be master of your brothers, And may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed be those who bless you. ³⁰Now it came about, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had hardly gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. ³¹Then he also made savory food, and brought it to his father; and he said to his father, let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me. ³²Isaac his father said to him, who are you? And he said, I am your son, your firstborn, Esau. ³³Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, who was he then that hunted game and brought it to me, so that I ate of all of it before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed. ³⁴When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father! ³⁵And he said, your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing. ³⁶Then he said, Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has supplanted me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing. And he said, have you not reserved a blessing for me? ³⁷But Isaac replied to Esau, Behold, I have made him your master, and all his relatives I have given to him as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. Now as for you then, what can I do, my son? ³⁸Esau said to his father, do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father. So Esau lifted his voice and wept. ³⁹Then Isaac his father answered and said to him, Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling, And away from the dew of heaven from above. ⁴⁰By your sword you shall live, and your brother you shall serve; But it shall come about when you become restless, that you will break his yoke from your neck. ⁴¹So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob. ⁴²Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you by planning to kill you. ⁴³Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban! ⁴⁴Stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury subsides, ⁴⁵until your brother's anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send and get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day? ⁴⁶Rebekah said to Isaac, I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?

Esau's attitude on display:

Genesis 28:6-9: (NASB) Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take to himself a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he charged him, saying, You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan, ⁷and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram. ⁸So Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac; ⁹and Esau went to Ishmael, and married, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.



Hebrews 12:12-17: (NASB) ¹²Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. ¹⁴Pursue peace with all men and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; ¹⁶that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.