

"What does the Bible say about lying? Is lying a sin?"

The Bible is clear that lying is a sin and is displeasing to God.

The Ten Commandments given to Moses includes ***"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour"*** (Exodus 20:16). Breaking willingly one of these commandments, including lying, shows that you are not placing God in the first place in your life because you are being disrespectful to the Word of God. Infact, Jesus said in John 14:15; ***"If you love Me, keep My commandments."*** So those who do not keep His commandments are not showing true and genuine love towards God.

When God gave us the commandments, He didn't tell us that keeping, for example, the 1st commandment is better than keeping the 9th commandment which speaks about lies. He didn't even tell us that a "white lie" is acceptable but a big one not, because a "white lie" is still a lie and thus, it falls under the same commandment. All of the 10 commandments are important and breaking one of them means that you are breaking them all. James 2:10 – ***"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."*** Thank God that through the blood of Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrifice, we can go before our Heavenly Father and ask Him for forgiveness when we sin unwillingly, and He will forgive us – ***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*** (1 John 1:9)

Proverbs 6:16-19 states that: ***"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."*** So "a lying tongue" and "a false witness who pours out lies" are considered as two of the seven abominations to the Lord.

Liars will be among those judged in the end (Revelation 21:8 – ***"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."***).

Other Scriptures that speak negatively of lying are:

- Proverbs 12:22- ***"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight."***
- 1 John 2:4 – ***"Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him."***
- Proverbs 19:5 – ***"A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape."***

Jesus called Himself the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6), and He expects those who follow Him to be people of truth. You cannot say that you are a Christian and disciple of Christ, and you do not follow Christ and His teachings. In fact, in John 8:31, we find: ***"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.'"***

Also, in Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus said; ***"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"***

Being a disciple of Christ does not mean that you do good works and love others only, it means that you also place Christ in the centre of your life and in the first place by following His Word.

The Word of God is so important that one day, we will be judged on how well we kept to it. This is found in John 12:48 – ***“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”***

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the only way to heaven. Are you ready to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ? Are you ready to accept Jesus as your Lord by obeying what He commands? Are you ready to accept Jesus by receiving His Words i.e. the Bible and live according to His will and do what pleases Him?

How can you please God? In Hebrews 11:6 we find: ***“And without faith it is impossible to please God”***. And where does faith come from? The answer is found in Romans 10:17 – ***“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”***

God is knocking on your heart... He is calling you; ***“Come, follow me”*** (Matthew 4:19). Jesus Christ wants you not only to believe in Him but also to believe Him and obey Him. He wants you to know Him personally and He wants you to start a relationship with Him. Are you going to accept his call?

May God bless you.

Marilyn Bellizzi

Scripture References:

- i. Exodus 20:16
- ii. John 14:15
- iii. James 2:10
- iv. 1 John 1:9
- v. Proverbs 6:16-19
- vi. Revelation 21:8
- vii. Proverbs 12:22
- viii. 1 John 2:4
- ix. Proverbs 19:5
- x. John 14:6
- xi. John 8:31
- xii. Matthew 7:21-23
- xiii. John 12:48
- xiv. Hebrews 11:6
- xv. Romans 10:17
- xvi. Matthew 4:19