

Lay Lying Down

Ephesians 4:25

Introduction:

- A. The command of Eph 4:25 – to lay aside falsehood
 - 1. The metaphor is of taking off c_____ and laying it aside
 - a. The ancient Greek Olympians took off excess clothing and laid it aside in order to c_____
 - b. The metaphor was used by Paul to refer to taking off the old n_____ in the previous context.
 - 2. The word, *therefore*, begins this verse and so ties it back to the previous context with a specific application to lying.
- B. But what is considered the sin of lying in God's eyes may not be as simple as it looks.

The definition of the sin of lying

- A. The sin of lying is not simply the o_____ of telling the truth (e.g. Gen 3:4,5)
 - 1. The serpent told Adam and Eve what would happen if they were to eat the forbidden fruit
 - a. They would not d_____ (but see what God said in Gen 2:7)
 - b. Their eyes would be opened the very day they ate and they would be like God, knowing good and e_____ (see what God said in Gen 3:22).
 - 2. What we know about the serpent and God
 - a. The serpent was really the d_____ in disguise (see Rev 12:9) – Jesus called him a l_____ (Jn 8:44)
 - b. God is incapable of l_____ (Num 23:19)
 - 3. What happened to Adam and Eve when they ate the forbidden fruit?
 - a. The s_____ died (their sin separated their human spirit from God's spirit, killing their human spirit – Eph 2:1)
 - b. Their bodies immediately b_____ to deteriorate and they eventually died physically.
 - 4. Was the devil guilty of the sin of lying?
 - a. He f_____ them into thinking that they were better off in eating the forbidden fruit than not eating it.
 - b. He wanted them to believe that knowing good and evil was a g_____ state (God only knew evil because Satan and his angel sinned against Him. Adam and Eve knew it because they sinned against God.

- B. The definition of the sin of lying – to intentionally mislead someone to believe something that is not t_____ to their disadvantage either by words or actions.

Reasons against the sin of lying

- A. Paul specifically deals with believers in Christ lying to one another.
1. He quotes Zech 8:16 that commanded the people of J_____ not to lie to one another.
 2. He gives the reason – we are m_____ of one another.
 - a. This is a metaphor of the physical b_____ which was already given in this chapter (Eph 4:16).
 - b. Believers are pictured as individual body p_____
 - c. Imagine if your own body parts lied to one another (e.g. your brain lied to your legs).
 3. This does not mean that we should speak our mind - we should only speak the truth if we can do it in l_____ (Eph 4:15).
 - a. Speaking the truth could be an act of g_____
 - b. Discern what is inappropriate to say or ask.
- B. What reason should believers not lie to unbelievers? - We represent Jesus and so we must reflect His n_____ (i.e. His character) in all that we do or say (Col 3:17).

Situations where lying is not a sin

- A. A principle to follow (1 Cor 10:13)
1. There is never a case where you have to choose the l_____ of two evils (there is rarely only two choices). God always provides a way of e_____ from sin.
 2. When the purpose of the law against lying is defeated by obeying the law, the law no longer applies.
- B. Protecting life
1. The case of Abraham and Sarah (Gen 12) – their lie was not justified because they failed to t_____ God's promises.
 - a. God promised Abraham that he would become the f_____ of many nations.
 - b. God promised Abraham that He would give the Promised Land to his d_____.
 - c. A famine forced Abraham, Sarah, and company to E_____
 - d. Abraham feared for his l_____ and told the Pharaoh of Egypt that Sarah was his sister and let Pharaoh take her into his harem.

2. The case of Rahab and the spies (Joshua 2) – she was not guilty of the sin of lying because it was a n_____ act (act of unselfish love)
 - a. She told the king’s delegation that the spies had already l_____
 - b. James 2:25 calls her action as a work of f_____.
3. The case of hiding the Jews from the Nazis
 - a. Those hiding the Jews were risking their lives (an act of unselfish l_____)
 - b. Those hiding the Jews were trying to prevent a terrible evil from happening – genocide (the ex_____ of Jews).
4. The case of Peter in denying Christ (Matt 26:69-74)
 - a. Peter was willing to d_____ in order to protect Jesus (see Jn 18:10,11).
 - b. Peter became unwilling to be i_____ with Christ out of fear of suffering the same fate.
 - 1) Rev 6:9 pictures many people who were ex_____ for their testimony.
 - 2) Believers are to never hide their identity but be Jesus’s w_____ (we confess Him, not deny Him).

Conclusion – Lay down the sin of lying and make sure you speak the truth only when you can do it in love. Let your actions demonstrate noble things never cowardice. We are representatives of Jesus.