

Time to Discern

"But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God"
(2 Corinthians 4:2 ESV).

Today's culture is a culture of tolerance regarding lying (ever hear of "Fake News"). People embrace the lies as if they are truth....Discernment is vital! The media plays a big part in feeding our society to believe lying is completely acceptable. Lying is rampant...According to statistic's people often lie because it's easier...

So just how bad is it really? *According to a study conducted by the University of Massachusetts, 60% of adults can't have a ten minute conversation without lying at least once. In another study, those who did lie actually told an average of 3 lies during their brief chat.*

And I know you're sitting there right now insisting you would be part of the 40% that didn't lie. Just so you know, that's exactly what the individuals in the study thought, too!! Until they watched the taped conversations back and they were shocked at how many fibs they had told in one sitting. Furthermore, the book, "The Day that America Told the Truth," states, "Of the people interviewed, 92 percent said the main reason for their lying was to save face, and 98 percent said the reason they told lies was so as not to offend people."

As you can see it is human tradition to avoid the truth and our culture strongly pressures to avoid truth! We are encouraged and pushed to look away from those who are lying. We must resist lying at all costs and we must discern if we are being lied to. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." (1 John 4:1, MEV). If someone is lying, it is not of God.

Friends, it's not just enough to speak the truth, you must walk in truth. Not what you think is truth, but the truth according to God's Word. We are told to put away falsehood, let each one of speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another (Ephesians 4:25).

Lying is reprovved in Scripture. God does not accept a person who "practices deceit" (Psalm 101:7), or according to Jeremiah 9:5 he does not accept a wicked society that practices deceit....Oh boy...Our society is full of deceit! We are seeing how lies are destructive, cause disagreements, division, and chaos to roam freely in our society, families and friends. Lies breed confusion and division from the truth. A divisive spirit and confusion are not of God or His word.

Truth is conformity to God's standards as revealed in His Word (John 17:17). It has to stop with us. God's love operates when truth is spoken. Think what would happen if Christians refused to participate with lying? "Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6).

We are called to do our best and to present ourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. Those who follow Jesus, must love truth (John 14:6), and speak the truth (Ephesians 4:15) whether it brings good or bad consequences. So do you best to always tell the truth and discern if you hearing truth! God loves it when you do!

Rev. Dr. Gina Cobb

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OnGv6sMFm4>

Heavenly Father,

I want to be a speaker of truth. I want to walk in the truth. I thank You Father for the example of the life of Jesus. Help me to follow in His steps, for I know that whoever truly follows Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Guard my mind today against worldly philosophies. May I be rooted firmly in Christ! May I not be a stumbling block in anyone's path or be discredited as Your disciple this day because of my words or actions for You have said in Your Word that whoever claims to live in Jesus, must walk as He did! By Your Spirit, teach me what it means to "live for righteousness" – to "seek righteousness", that You, Jesus, may be seen in me more and more, and that lasting spiritual fruit may be born out of my life. Where the enemy is oppressing me and holding me back from a deeper relationship with You, release me Lord! Lord, help me to become a person who moves in revelation and understanding of Your ways and purposes. Help me to love You above all others and all other things. May I listen to Your voice, be known by You and follow You. Don't let me be satisfied with only what I see, I ask for the Spirit of Truth! Show me Your plans Lord! I am under Your authority, so give me discernment to walk wisely in these days. In Jesus Name..