

Honesty is Truthfulness

Christ is the best example of **honesty (truth)**, and everyone should follow his example. Jesus said, "*I am **the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me***" (John 14:6).

*"It is impossible for God to lie" (Heb. 6:18). "God is not a man. **He will not lie.** God is not a human being. He does not change his mind. What he says he will do, he does. What he promises, he keeps" (Num. 23:19 ICB).*

*"The Lord detests **lying lips**, but He delights in men who are truthful [honesty]" (Prov. 12:22). "Therefore, putting away falsehood, let each one of you speak **the truth** with his neighbor" (Eph. 4:25).*

Positive Long-term Benefit of Honesty

Honesty emphasizes the long-term benefits of truthfulness. It is always better to tell the truth, even if it is difficult or might lead to painful short-term consequences.

Being honest might result in immediate rebuke or punishment but builds trust and strong relationships with others. It is better to admit a wrong and face discipline than to try to hide it. In the long run, It avoids the stress of hiding a secret. When you are honest, people trust and respect you.

"Honesty is the best policy. If I lose my honor, I lose myself." — W. Shakespeare. In other words, honesty (**truth**) is the best action/plan. If you lose your self-respect, you lose yourself in lies, disgrace, and self-deceit.

Negative Long-term consequence

Bible warns against negative consequences of dishonesty. Lying, even to avoid trouble, can create bigger problems in the long run by damaging trust and requiring more lies to cover up the initial deception. Honesty avoids theft, fraud, and other forms of deceit. "*You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not **lie to one another***" (Lev. 19:11). **Lying** can lead to a cycle of needing to tell more lies to cover up the initial lie, which can be stressful and damaging. The Bible portrays dishonesty as a destructive force, leading to broken relationships and God's displeasure. The Bible condemns dishonest business practices like false scales and measure. Dishonest politicians are lying, as though they will never account for their lies. The Lord will not let criminals get away with murder. Dishonest politicians, criminals, businessmen, cheating husbands, and lying people will all account for their sins before God.

Final Consequence

*"Truthful lips endure forever, but a **lying tongue lasts only a moment**" (Prov. 12:19). A lie is not permanent. It might be an immediate relief, but all lies will eventually be uncovered and revealed. The true God of Heaven and Earth can not coexist with lies, deceit, and dishonestly. Therefore, honesty is the best way to live, since in the end God will reveal all lies. Eventually, all hidden actions and deceitful practices will be revealed. "*For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open*" (Luke 8:17). Jesus warned his disciples, "*Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!*" (Luke 12:1-3 NLT). "*A false witness [lie] will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will perish*" (Prov. 19:9). Ultimately, no one gets away with lies and deceptions. All lies, hypocrisies, and crimes will be revealed on Judgment Day.*

The Great White Throne Judgment.

"I (John) saw a great white throne and the one [Creator God] sitting on it ... I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. The books were opened, including the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books ... All were judged according to their deeds ... Anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:11-15 NLT).

Love your neighbor: "*Love does not delight in evil [lie, dishonesty] but rejoices with **the truth***" (1 Cor. 13:6).

Therefore, all people should tell the truth. Be honest in politics, business, financial matters, and personal relationships with others. Be Christ-like in every way. The Son of God is truthful, likewise every child of God (Christians) should be honest in speech, behavior, and deeds.

Honesty is of God and dishonesty of the devil; the devil was a liar from the beginning.

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