

'It's okay to do this as my family needs the money for food.' Is a Christian justified in telling lies or cheating to help earn money?

Leviticus 25:14 _____

Proverbs 20:23 _____

'You just need to put a little under the table, then it will be all right.' What should be our attitude to bribery?

Amos 5:12 _____

'You only need to pay your worker this much. They couldn't earn more anywhere else.' What should be a Christian employer's attitude towards paying his employee?

Deuteronomy 24:14-15 _____

'Everyone cheats on their taxes. That's not wrong.' What does God say about paying taxes?

Romans 13:6-7 _____

'Most people take a few things home from the office – they expect that.' What should our standard be in this area?

Ephesians 4:28 _____

'What should be our attitude to work? Why is this important?

Colossians 3:22-24 _____

'Everyone cheats in exams!' Why is cheating definitely wrong for a Christian?

Leviticus 19:11 _____

Hebrews 4:13 _____

4. Honesty in Speech

♥ What does God say about the importance of speaking truthfully?

Colossians 3:9-10 _____

Ephesians 4:15, 25 _____

♥ What reasons do these verses give us for being honest?

There are many forms of dishonest speech which we often justify. God's Word exposes these as sin. Let's look at some examples.

A. Telling a partial truth

Read 1 Samuel 15:13, 16-21

In what way was Saul being dishonest? _____

How did he try to justify himself? _____

B. Allowing people to believe a false impression

Read Genesis 37:26-28, 31-34

What did the brothers do to Joseph? _____

In what way were they lying to their father? _____

C. By Silence

Read Acts 5:1-5

How were Ananias and Sapphira being dishonest? _____

What was God's attitude to such dishonesty? _____

D. Exaggeration

Why do you think exaggeration is a form of dishonesty? Discuss.

E. Failure to Keep Promises

Someone asks to see you and you agree on a time. However, you don't really want to see that person! Later when you see that person you say you were too busy.

How is breaking a promise dishonest? _____

Think

Are there any of these subtle forms of dishonesty in your life? Allow the Holy Spirit to bring them to the light and the blood of Jesus to cleanse you.

Discuss

In some cultures there are things that are acceptable. For example people feel it is better to tell a lie than hurt another person, or it is better to lie than lose face. In what ways are these standards good, and in what ways do they contradict God's Word?

♥ What can help us to live an honest life?

Psalm 119:29-30 _____

Acts 24:16 _____

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, he said he sought to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord, but also in the eyes of others. Let's make that our desire and goal too.