

Reference: 1 JOHN 5:10-12
Church: GRACE Date: 1/1/2006

Making God a Liar

Purpose: To examine the sin of unbelief and to see how wicked it is. To urge all to turn from it.

1. Introduction

Why do many churches today entertain their congregations?
Slick presentations, music, drama, spectacle?
Why does the RC Church have so many ceremonies:
Vestments, processions, pomp and circumstance?
Because we are naturally attracted to visible touchable things
This attraction is brought into the church
It is not always wrong to do so:
Baptism, Lord's Supper are visible signs of invisible truths
But most of the visible, tangible things have passed away
We are to live by faith and not sight
But we are still biased toward visible, touchable things.
This bias also affects our judgment of sin
We tend to major on sins we can see
And some are very serious (adultery, homosexuality, abortion)
But even relatively minor offences can become huge in our eyes
Because we can see them
While we can tend to give less weight to less visible sins
Even though Scripture says they can be very serious to God
Sins such as pride, greed, covetousness, lust, malice, hatred
Good to begin a series as we have opportunity
Examine these less visible sins, try to gain a right perspective
Beginning with unbelief - perhaps the worst of them all
Not a neutral thing, but a vile and hideous sin, & root of others

2. Where did Unbelief Begin?

At the beginning, of course

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it,

or you will die.' " **4** The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! **5** "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

You will not die! That isn't true! You don't need to listen!
Judge for yourself what is true – don't believe God's words!
This sin of unbelief has been with us ever since

3. What is the nature of unbelief?

Our text tells us what is at the heart of this sin

1 John 5:10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; **the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.**

Unbelief is calling the God of the Bible a liar
Choosing to reject as untrue something God has said
Saying we know more and better than God on a subject
Let's consider this for a moment
Saying it quickly may not have caused a response in your hearts
Whereas it should have made you shudder!
Unbelief is calling God a liar!

Listen to these verses about God from the Bible:

Psalms 111:7 The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure.

Isaiah 65:16 "Because he who is blessed in the earth Will be blessed by the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Will swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My sight!

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 14:16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; **17** *that is the Spirit of truth*, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*

It isn't just that God tells the truth - He is Truth!
Truth has its origin and meaning in Him;
Apart from Him, we wouldn't know what truth is!
He has always been Truth, is Truth today, will always be Truth
This is one of the many ways He is distinguished from men
Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

And He has revealed Himself to us in a book that is truth

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Unbelief is calling THIS God a liar!

Now let's consider unbelief in unbelievers, and in believers

4. Unbelief in the Unbeliever

4.1. **Are God's words about Jesus lies?**

Our text says you have not believed what God says about Jesus
What things does God say about Jesus that you think are lies?

Here are some of them

God, the all-knowing, all-powerful, eternal Creator,
Who is Truth itself and has given us His Word of truth

This God says to you

That all mankind is utterly polluted by sin since Adam's fall
That sin has affected every part of man's being
His mind; he cannot think correctly about spiritual things
His heart; he cannot love God or truly holy things but loves sin
His will; he cannot choose to do anything good
Has rebelled against God and despised His commandments
He is born condemned and headed for eternal damnation for sin
Hell is a real place; people suffer endless torment, justly for sin
Man is a totally lost and hopeless cause

And **you** say, "I don't think so, God – that's not how I see it

If You are a God of love, you wouldn't send sinners to Hell

I don't think You should do that

You should love us, forget our sin, and not send us to Hell

I don't agree that Man is all bad either—he's basically good.

He can choose to do things that you should be pleased with

And I don't hate you—I just don't want you running my life

I want to live my life my own way on my terms

And for you to take me to heaven afterwards

And so you call God a liar- not believing His words

This God says that He sent His Son Jesus, into this world

That Jesus lived perfectly, keeping all God's commands
Earning merit with God that could be given to His people
That He died their death on the cross, suffering Hell itself
Not for His sin (he had none), but He was punished for their sin
So that anyone who turns away from sin and trusts in Him
Would not perish in hell but have everlasting life in heaven
So that there is hope for hopeless man
And you say, "I don't think so, God"

The stories about Jesus are nice and are harmless enough

Especially the Christmas Story

But I think I can earn some merit with you

I give to charity, help people in trouble, do lots of good works

I might not be perfect, but I am way better than others I know.

You should accept someone like me - there are lots worse

And as for giving up my sins

I am not sure these things are so bad –everyone does them

I like them and I'm not ready to stop just because you say so

And so you make God a liar- not believing His words

This God says that there is no other way to avoid hell

You must believe on Christ to be saved, and no-one else

And you say, "I don't think so, God"

"All other religions cannot possibly be wrong"

"It is arrogance to say that this is the only way to heaven"

"There must be other ways to heaven than this"

"I want one where my good works count for something"

And so you call God a liar

4.2. **Are God's Words on other subjects lies?**

This God says there is no excuse for not believing He exists

He has given sufficient evidence in creation

Which He made in 6 days out of nothing

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, **19** because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

He has further revealed Himself in His Word

But unrighteous men suppress the truth so they can sin

And you say, "I don't think so, God"

I am not at all sure you really exist

I think this universe may just be a cosmic accident

Science has worked out how it happened with no need for you

Show me some sign from heaven and perhaps I will believe

Otherwise, I am not convinced

And so you call God a liar

This God says you must submit to His rule as your Lord
You must obey His commandments because they are right
Give Him His proper place in your life, seek to be holy
And you say, “*I don’t think so, God*”
I won’t have you as my King – I am my own lord
I don’t think there are absolute rights and wrongs
We just need to do what most people think is OK
Why can’t that be good enough for you?

And so you call God a liar

This God says He hates murder

Life is precious and must be protected, Especially the innocent
And *many* say, “*I don’t think so, God*”
*“It would be very inconvenient to the mothers to keep all the
unwanted children conceived in their wombs”*
*“It’s much better for them and society to kill them – all 1.5
million of them a year”*

And so they call God a liar

This God says marriage is between one man and one woman

That all other types of relationship are sinful and perverse
And *many* say, “*I don’t think so, God*”
“We need to be free to pursue whatever relationships we want”
“We need to protect alternative relationships by law”
“Encourage them to be practiced openly and taught as good”

And so they call God a liar

We could go on. But do you get the point?
Wherever you do things God has said you shouldn’t
Or don’t do things God has said you should
You sit in judgment on God and call Him a liar
How dare you do this?

4.3. Consequences of unbelief in unbelievers

Have already seen something of this
He is Truth and He speaks only truth
All who reject His words about Jesus call Him a liar
They are condemned already for their unbelief

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

They do not have Jesus and therefore have no life

1 John 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

They will not enter Heaven

But will join all who died calling God a liar, still rejecting Jesus
In the place of weeping, gnashing of teeth
Don’t call God a liar!
Who are you to sift **His** words, and accept/reject as you please?
Do you know more than God?

Are you a better judge of truth than He is? How wicked!

4.4. Cure of unbelief in the unbeliever

Can you be forgiven for calling God a liar?
Yes – stop rejecting what He says—accept it. Don’t fight Him!
Plead with him to change your heart, mind and will
Believe His words about Jesus!
Turn from your sins and trust Him alone to save you

5. Unbelief in the Believer

We have been given grace to believe God is true
To accept what He says in His word about Christ
To believe on Him for salvation
Yet unbelief still lurks in the recesses of our hearts
We can still be slow of heart to believe

Luke 24:25 And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Thomas is another example – “unless I see and touch”

5.1. Consequences of unbelief in the Believer

To the extent you disbelieve His Word you call Him a liar too
And say you know better than He does
If you have truly believed, you cannot lose your salvation
But unbelief will rob you of assurance, joy and power
Because it empties all His promises of their value
It will reduce your usefulness in His service
Jesus couldn’t work greatly in places of little faith

5.2. Cure of unbelief in the believer

Repent of unbelief! Flee from it! Run to Him now!

He will receive and forgive and restore
He did for the Luke 24 disciples and for Thomas
They were corrected, not condemned
They were disciplined, not destroyed
We need to watch for unbelief in our hearts and pray against it

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

We need to press on to believe **all** that God has said
To obey in **all** that He has commanded us
This is the very essence of faith!
We need to ask God that we may grow in faith
Look to His very great and precious promises and believe them
Here are just a few for us in 2006

A word for our evangelism:

Isaiah 55:10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; **11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

A word of peace in our anxiety

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A word of purpose and strength whatever comes our way

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Will you believe these things?

Will you believe all that God says in His Word?

6. Conclusions

Unbelief – calling the God of Truth a liar, is a vile sin.
May God give us all grace to believe Him and rest in Him
May we never by our lives, thoughts or words, call Him a liar
Moment of quiet prayer.