

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. —Exodus 20:16 ESV

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Truth and Error: A Contrast

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- the only true God (John 17:3)
- the Truth (John 14:6)
- Spirit of Truth (John 14:17)
- your word is Truth (John 17:17)
- worship in spirit and Truth (John 4:23)

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God is the Truth Source

“Everything about God reflects absolute and undiluted truth. In Him there is no lie. His justice and His righteousness are established in an absolute veracity, in absolute truth. He hates lies, and His followers must be a people of truth. His creatures are obligated to the truth.”

—Al Mohler

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Satan is the Deceit Source

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

—John 8:44 ESV

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¹⁶There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ¹⁷haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, ¹⁹a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. —Proverbs 6:16-19 ESV

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Truth and Error: A Distortion

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“The truth is a sum of human relations which have been poetically and rhetorically intensified, transferred, and embellished, and which after long usage, seem to a people to be fixed.” —Friedrich Nietzsche

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⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—
⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. —Galatians 1:6-8 ESV

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Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

—James 3:1 ESV

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I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
—3 John 4 ESV

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Truth and Error: A Lifestyle

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²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another... ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. —Ephesians 4:25, 31-32 ESV

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A lie is a statement that is contrary to fact. It is spoken with the intent to deceive. It is not a matter of misstatement, but of misleading. The motive makes the difference.

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Ways and Means of Lying:

Deception

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¹²What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

—Psalm 34:12-13 ESV

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“He who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second time.”
—Thomas Jefferson

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Ways and Means of Lying:

Exaggeration

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Ways and Means of Lying:

Escape

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Ways and Means of Lying:

Revenge

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Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babbler. —Proverbs 20:19 ESV

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Ways and Means of Lying:

Avoidance

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The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips. —Proverbs 16:23 ESV

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There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. —Proverbs 12:18 ESV

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... speaking the truth in love...
—Ephesians 4:15 ESV

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Ways and Means of Lying:

Hypocrisy

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If we say we have fellowship with him while
we walk in darkness, we lie and do not
practice the truth. —1 John 1:6 ESV

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Truth and Error: A Destiny

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“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through
me.” —John 14:6 ESV

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“Straight Talk” of Truth:

We are all moral failures.

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... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... —Romans 3:23 ESV

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“Straight Talk” of Truth:

We will all stand before God and give account for our sins.

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So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. —Romans 14:12 ESV

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“Straight Talk” of Truth: We will spend eternity in hell if we refuse to admit our sin and our need for salvation.

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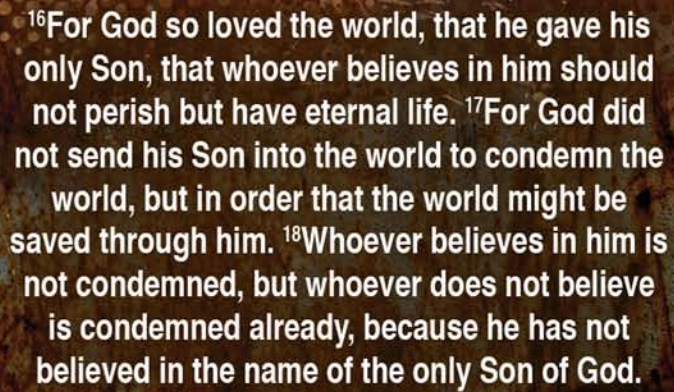
But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. —Revelation 21:8 ESV

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“Straight Talk” of Truth:

We can be forgiven of our sins, cleansed from their stains, and escape the judgment of hell by receiving Jesus Christ and His free gift of eternal life.

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¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

—John 3:16-18 ESV