

IS IT EVER OK FOR A CHRISTIAN TO LIE ?

Lying is reprehensible to God. It is contrary to His holy nature. Titus 1:2 tells us that God cannot lie.

The Devil used lies to entice Adam and Eve to sin (Genesis 3). His lying brought sin and death into the world, and was the ultimate cause of the crucifixion of Christ. Both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible forbid lying. The next-to-the-last chapter of the Bible warns that *“The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”* (Revelation 21:8 NKJV).

The question is, “Is it ever acceptable for a Christian to lie?” Should a person lie in situations where telling the truth might lead to severe harm or death to innocent people? Rahab was faced with this issue when she hid the Israeli spies from the king of Jericho (Joshua 2). She lied about their whereabouts and was credited for saving their lives. James 2:25 states that she was “Justified” or “Considered righteous” for what she had done.

On the other hand, God has often honored the faith of those who refused to lie, even in such dire circumstances. Corrie Tin Boom tells how a child in the family told Hitler’s police that the Christians they sought were under the dining table, which was covered with a table-cloth that hung down to the floor. She laughed when the police approached the table, and they searched the house for the fugitives, but refused to look under the table lest they be ridiculed by the child for believing such a preposterous assertion.

It appears that God Himself uses deceit to entrap those who reject the truth in their own iniquity. 1 Kings 18 recounts how He sent a lying spirit to the false prophets of Israel to entice King Ahab into his final rebellion against the Lord. And fully knowing what the true prophet of the Lord had predicted, Ahab defied the word of the Lord and paid for it with his life. 2 Thessalonians 2:10 warns that He will send a strong delusion to the unrepentant in the end times so they will believe the lie of the Antichrist.

It is never OK to lie to protect ourselves or others from the due results of our wrong-doings. Likewise, it is not acceptable to God for Christians to deny their relationship with Christ to avoid persecution. Such are the “Cowardly” or “Fearful” of Revelation 21:8. As far as lying to protect the innocent from disaster, each Christian will have to decide that issue before the Lord according to the circumstances if and when he is faced with it.

Submitted a bit tremulously,

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