

CHOOSING TRUTH OVER CONVENIENCE

Live with Integrity – Part 4

Ephesians 4:25

March 28, 2010

“Stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.” – Ephesians 4:25 NLT

Why Is Truth Such a Big Deal?

1. Because (God) is Truth and (Satan) is the “father of all lies.”

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and Truth.” – John 1:14

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life.’” – John 14:6a

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” – John 8:44

2. Because truth frees us to be able to (trust) and be trusted.

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you really are my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

When Do We Struggle Most with Truthfulness?

1. When honesty is likely to be (costly).

*“Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD?
Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?
Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right,
Speaking the truth from sincere hearts.
Those who...keep their promises even when it hurts.” – Psalm 15:1-2, 4
NLT*

2. When I have made a (habit) of lying or built my life around deception.

“And stop lying to each other. You have given up your old way of life with

its habits.” – Colossians 3:9 CEV

3. When I feel the need to look or sound (better) than I really am.

“What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ’s body, we’re all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.” – Ephesians 4:25 Msg

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:8-9

“Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed.” -- James 5:16 Msg