

END-TIMES ISSUES



#141 Commandment #9 – Is it ever O.K. to lie?

GOD DOESN'T TELL US TO KNOW ALL THE END-TIME DETAILS. HE TELLS US TO BE READY.

A N D B E Y O N D I

The Ninth Commandment

What does God say about violating this commandment?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
Exodus 20:16 (BSB)

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
Deuteronomy 5:20 (BSB)

You must not lie or deceive one another. You must not swear falsely by My name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.
Leviticus 19:11b-12 (BSB)

[The person who wants to stand in God's presence...]
... **speaks the truth** from his heart,
... has **no slander** on his tongue,
... casts **no scorn** on his friend, ...
Psalm 15:2c, 3a,c (BSB)

Stay far away from a false accusation.
Exodus 23:7a (BSB)

You must not go about spreading slander among your people.
Leviticus 19:16 (BSB)

If **a false witness** testifies against someone ... **if the witness is proven to be a liar** who has falsely accused his brother, you must do to him as he intended to do to his brother. So **you must purge the evil from among you**. ... You must show no pity...
Deuteronomy 19:16a, 18b-19, 21a (BSB)

You shall not spread a false report. Do not join the wicked by being a malicious witness.
You shall not follow the crowd in wrongdoing. **When you testify in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice** by siding with the crowd. **And do not show favoritism** ...
Exodus 23:1-3a (BSB)

[The LORD hates] ... **a lying tongue**, ...
... **a false witness who gives false testimony**, ...
Proverbs 6:17b, 19a (BSB)

The one who conceals hatred has **lying lips**, and **whoever spreads slander** is a fool.
Proverbs 10:18 (BSB)

A gossip reveals a secret, ...
Proverbs 11:13a (BSB)

A false witness will not go unpunished, and **one who utters lies** will not escape.
A false witness will not go unpunished, and **one who pours out lies** will perish.
Proverbs 19:5, 9 (BSB)

"I will be a swift witness against ... **perjurers**, ...: says the LORD of Hosts.
Malachi 3:5b (BSB)

[God's description of Israel's evil ways...]
"They **bend their tongues** like bows; **lies prevail over truth** in the land.
... every friend **spreads slander**.
Each one **betrays** his friend; **no one tells the truth**.
They have **taught their tongues to lie**; ...
You dwell in the midst of **deception**; in their **deceit** they refuse to know Me, ..."
Jeremiah 9:3a, 4b-5a, 6 (BSB)

Do not lie to each other ...
Colossians 3:9a (BSB)

We also know that the law is made ... [for] **liars** and **perjurers** ...
1 Timothy 1:9b, 10b (BSB)

... **Satan has filled your heart to lie** to the Holy Spirit ...
You have **not lied to men, but to God!**
Acts 5:3b-4 (BSB)

... they presented **false witnesses** [against Stephen] ...
Acts 6:13a (BSB)

Therefore each of you **must put off falsehood** and **speak truthfully** to his neighbor ...
Let **no unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but **only what is helpful** for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen.
Get rid of all ... outcry and slander, ...
Ephesians 4:25a, 29, 31a (BSB)

[The religious leaders] were seeking **false testimony** against Jesus in order to put Him to death. But they did not find any, though many **false witnesses** came forward.
Matthew 26:59b-60a (BSB)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be ... **slandrous**, ...
2 Ti 3:1-2a, 3b (NIV)

Brothers, **do not slander** one another.
James 4:11a (BSB)

"... **all liars**, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death."
Revelation 21:8b (BSB)

- We have just looked at a **FEW** of the Scripture passages that **PROHIBIT LYING** and all the other violations of the Ninth Commandment. *There are many hundreds more.*
- Here is a **COMPLETE LIST** of **ALL** of the Scripture passages that **PERMIT LYING** (or any of the other violations of the Ninth Commandment): **YES**, this represents *all* of them.

Why does God have such a great emphasis on NOT lying?
Why does he NEVER mention any exceptions?

Is it because people back then never had to face difficult situations, like we do today?

Is it because God *forgot* to mention the exceptions, so we have to figure them out on our own?

NOT REALLY!

- Perhaps the following concepts might give us a clue:
 - ✓ **God is truth**; it's his nature; he is not capable of lying – John 14:6; Hebrews 6:18; Numbers 23:19; etc. [He is also holiness, love, etc. His nature *defines* all these characteristics.]
 - ✓ **God made people "in his image,"** to reflect, in creation, the nature of the Creator – Genesis 1:26-27; Colossians 3:9-10.
 - ✓ In contrast, **Satan is the ultimate liar**, and the *father* of *all* who lie – John 8:44; 1 John 3:8.

★ **These issues show that there is a total incompatibility between truthfulness and lying.** ★

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
Exodus 20:16 (BSB); also in Deuteronomy 5:20.

In spite of all this, people have a tendency to *want* to "justify" lying in what they call "extreme situations."

- But they're **unable** to do so by appealing to the commands, prohibitions, and instructions found in Scripture!
- So what do they do?? They **can't** appeal to God, so they appeal to the conduct of **sinners**! Even so, they can find only TWO main examples in Scripture where: 1) people lied (or supposedly lied) and something good happened afterwards, and 2) the passage does **not** say that God condemned their lie.
 - ✓ Their "logic" seems to be: **IF**: the person lied (or we *think* they did), AND something good happened AND God didn't condemn the lie, ... **THEN**: the lying was good – morally defensible.
 - ✓ Here are the two supposed "Scripture proofs" that people use to show that lying can be morally good, perhaps even mandatory:

Case #1: The Hebrew Midwives

Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, ... "When you help the Hebrew women give birth, ... If the child is a son, kill him; but if it is a daughter, let her live."

The midwives, however, feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt had instructed; they let the boys live.

So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"

The midwives answered Pharaoh, "**The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before a midwife arrives.**"

So **God was good to the midwives**, and the people multiplied and became even more numerous. **And because the midwives feared God, He gave them families of their own.**

Exodus 1:15a, 16a, c, 17-21 (BSB)

- Here is the argument of those who want to promote lying as a legitimate option:
 - ✓ They *insist* that the midwives' claim (i.e., the Hebrew women "are vigorous and give birth before a midwife arrives") is a *lie*.
 - ✓ They *insist* that God's blessing of the midwives is proof that God approved of their lie.
- What does Scripture say?
 - ✓ **At no point does Scripture say they lied.**
 - » Those who claim it was a lie must *assume* that Hebrew women *were*n't "vigorous" (Nothing in Scripture says this.)
 - » They also *assume* that the Hebrew women *didn't* "give birth before a midwife arrives." (Nothing in Scripture says this.)
 - » They also *assume* that the king of Egypt wasn't smart enough recognize when someone was possibly lying! (If anything sounded suspicious, he could have sent someone else to find out!)
 - » **Conclusion?** They keep referring to this passage, but everything they want you to believe *just isn't there!*

- ✓ **Scripture itself provides us with a sufficient reason for God to bless them** with children, *without* coming up with the claim that they lied.
 - » **FIRST: They feared God. God blesses those who fear him.**
 - Blessed** are those who **fear** the LORD, ...
Psalm 112:1b (NIV)
 - [The LORD] will **bless** those who **fear** the LORD—small and great alike.
Psalm 115:13 (BSB)
 - Blessed** are all who **fear** the LORD, ...
Psalm 128:1a (BSB)
 - [Verses 2-3 list *examples* of potential blessings, including having children*...]
 - In this way indeed shall **blessing** come to the man who **fears** the LORD.
Psalm 128:1a, 4 (BSB)

* (These are just *examples*! There is no ironclad guarantee that children will *always* be one of the blessings that is received.)

- » **SECOND: They disobeyed the king, when he wanted them to do something that was a sin against God** (and against people).

↳ This disobedience was the result of fearing God. THIS IS THE SAME THING THAT THE APOSTLES DID!

↳ This was NOT sin! To obey the king would have been sin.

But Peter and the other apostles replied,
"We must obey God rather than men."

Acts 5:29 (BSB)

- **How could the midwives' claim be true? How could the Hebrew women "give birth before a midwife arrives"?**
 - ✓ The most likely explanation is actually very easy to figure out!
 - ✓ All the midwives had to do was to *not arrive on time*! If the Hebrew women were vigorous, then all the midwives had to do was to take their time in getting there. Don't rush to the scene!
- **What can we conclude?** There is NO EVIDENCE that they lied, and NO EVIDENCE that lying was blessed by God.

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Case #2: Rahab, the prostitute in Jericho

So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab and said, "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, for they have come to spy out the whole land."

But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them.

So she said, "Yes, the men did come to me, but **I did not know where they had come from**. At dusk, when the gate was about to close, **the men went out, and I do not know which way they went**. Pursue them quickly, and you may catch them!"

(But Rahab had taken them up to the roof and **hidden them among the stalks of flax** that she had laid out there.)

[She] said to them, "**I know that the LORD has given you this land** and that the fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who dwell in the land are melting in fear of you. ... **for the LORD your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth below.**"

Joshua 2:3-6, 9 (BSB)

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- **Here is the argument of those who want to promote lying as a legitimate option:**
 - ✓ They point out the fact that she *did* lie. [This is a point that *everyone* agrees on. It was a genuine lie.]
 - ✓ Then they claim that the resulting *good* – i.e., the spies were kept alive, and eventually, the city was destroyed – was all the result of the lie.
 - ✓ Therefore (they conclude), the lie itself was good.
- **What does Scripture say?**
 - ✓ The text describes the lie; but nowhere does it commend or praise the lie. Not here; not anywhere.
 - » Instead, Scripture says that *something else* is the praiseworthy act!
 - ✓ **Those who promote lying focus on the lie, and they praise the lie. But what does Scripture focus on and praise?** (Did God "forget" to praise the lie?)

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✓ What focus does Scripture have?

- » **In the Joshua account:** Scripture focuses on Rahab's recognition that the LORD, the God of Israel, was "God in the heavens above and on the earth below," and that "the LORD has given [Israel] this land."
- » **In the New Testament:** Scripture focuses on Rahab's *faith* and *salvation* – and that it was proved to be a *genuine, living faith*, by her willingness to protect the spies.

By **faith** the prostitute Rahab, because **she welcomed the spies in peace**, did not perish with those who were disobedient.

Hebrews 11:31 (BSB)

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute **justified by her actions** when **she welcomed the spies and sent them off on another route**? ... faith without deeds is dead.

James 2:25, 26b (BSB)

- **What can we conclude?** NOT that it's OK to lie, but that: ① God can save people who don't fully understand the Ten Commandments!

ALSO: →

16

BUT GOD USED THE LIE! DOESN'T THAT PROVE THE LIE WAS GOOD?

GOD ALWAYS USES SINNERS. AND SOMETIMES, SINNERS SIN! BUT HE USES THEM IN SPITE OF THEIR SIN.

- ✓ **We can also conclude...** ② God uses sinners; and doing so is an expression of *GRACE*, not an endorsement of *SIN*.
 - » If he *didn't* use sinners, there would be *nobody* for him to use.
- ✓ **We can also conclude...** ③ God doesn't expect "instant spiritual maturity" out of someone who just got saved, and hasn't had the opportunity to find out what the Bible says!
 - » We shouldn't be surprised when "new-born" followers of God don't act like "grown-ups"!

Are there any other "proof texts" used to promote lying?

- **Not really.** Occasionally, someone will point to some other passage; but their arguments tend to be weak and easily refuted. Or there is too little information, or too many things that must be assumed. (Scripture often *reports* something, without saying it is good or bad.)

17

Some people claim that omission of details proves that it is a lie.

- **EXAMPLE: 1 Samuel 16** – When God tells Samuel to anoint David as the future king, Samuel panics – because he believes Saul will find out and will kill him. God tells Samuel to sacrifice a heifer and tell the people that he has "come to sacrifice to the LORD."
 - ✓ Those who use this verse to promote lying claim that *God himself* told Samuel to *lie* – because, even though everything Samuel said was *truthful*, he didn't mention the part about anointing David!

Now the LORD said to Samuel... "Fill your horn with oil and go. **I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have selected from his sons a king** for Myself."

"How can I go?" Samuel asked. "Saul will hear of it and kill me!"

The LORD answered, "**Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.** Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you are to do. You are to anoint for Me the one I indicate."

1 Samuel 16:1-3 (BSB)

18

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

- ✓ People *always* omit details, without it becoming a lie! It is *impossible* to include every detail of what you are doing! Even *this* example omits many details. →
- ✓ Though some may *claim* that this passage *proves* that *God himself* encourages lying, in reality, *no lie* can be found in anything Samuel said in this passage!
- ✓ If anything, this account teaches us that certain details *can* be omitted, when those details would result in the commission of a serious sin.
 - » This is not the same as omitting details that someone has a *right* to know (like a parent trying to find out where a child has been)!

19

Some people claim that lying is legitimate during wartime.

- **EXAMPLE: 2 Samuel 17:20** – During a civil war, two men who were getting information for David were hidden in a well, to keep them from being captured. When questioned, the woman at the house said:

"They have crossed over the brook," she replied. The men searched but did not find them, so they returned to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 17:20b (BSB)

Then she tells the two men to hurry and cross the "river" to David.

- ✓ The question is: Did she lie?
 - » Many argue "YES," claiming that the "brook" and the "river" both refer to the Jordan River (which they *hadn't* yet crossed).
 - » Others point out that the two men *did* cross a "brook" when traveling from En Rogel to Bahurim (where they were now hiding), and it *wasn't* the "river" Jordan (which she was going to tell them to cross, so they could meet with David).
 - » The issue: This was war. What she said was *true*, though it misled the enemy... so was it a *lie*? (Either way, *Scripture just reports what happened, without claiming it was good or bad.*)

20

Is lying justifiable in the context of war?

[Many argue "YES," and claim that the action shouldn't be "technically" considered a lie. Others strongly disagree.]

- People who claim that lying can be justifiable tend to point to a modern example from World War 2 – a time when there were people hiding Jews, to prevent them from being killed by their enemies.
 - ✓ They typically point to a book written by Corrie ten Boom, "The Hiding Place," in which this issue is raised. The author claimed that it was OK to lie, if it meant the Jew's life was spared. [She also mentions that her sister believed it was *never* right to lie.]
 - ✓ **Note:** People who hold to this view debate among themselves whether or not the lie – even if thought necessary – was *still* a sin. Some would argue that she would need to ask for forgiveness.
- Ultimately, all this proves is that she *wanted* to do what she thought was right... and she thought lying was the best way to do so. However, this appeal to what *she* did does *not* prove that *God* approves or disapproves of it.

21

What about "temporary lying," when the plan is to reveal the truth at a later time?

- **EXAMPLES: Genesis 42+ and 1 Kings 13:18**

- ① Joseph pretended he did not know his brothers, but later revealed himself to them. The word "lie" (or equivalent) is not present in the text. Nothing in the text suggests that Joseph did anything wrong; rather, he was *testing* his brothers, and finding out more information about his family.

This event started with Joseph pretending he was a stranger who did not know them; but after a number of events transpired, it ended with an admission of who he was.

And when Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but **he treated them as strangers** and spoke harshly to them.

Genesis 42:7a (BSB)

"I am Joseph, your brother," he said, "**the one you sold into Egypt!**"

Genesis 45:4b (BSB); also v. 3.

22

- ② The old prophet "lied" to a man of God, testing him; but later informed the man of God that it was a deception.

Then the prophet replied, "I too am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, so that he may eat bread and drink water.' "

The old prophet was lying to him, ...

1 Kings 13:18 (BSB); some translations use the word "deceived" instead of "lying."

- ↳ The word used here is *not* one of the words normally used for "lying." It refers to concealment or a denial of something – a failure to represent reality; but it does not imply any specific moral judgment – the context must do that. (In Leviticus 19:11, in the context of disrupting social relationships, it is morally wrong.)

... and the prophet cried out to the man of God ... "This is what the LORD says: 'Because **you have defied the word of the LORD** and have not kept the commandment that the LORD your God gave you, ... [you will die.]'

1 Kings 13:21 (BSB)

23

- ② **More about the old prophet** – Afterwards: He was grieved that the man of God had failed the test – by failing to obey God's explicit instructions. He also affirmed that the man of God's prophecy would come to pass – which happened about 300 years later.

↳ Many commentators view this old prophet as being a false prophet, or as having sinful motives for what he said. But they go beyond what is actually stated in the passage. When we consider his grief over the man of God's failure to obey God, and his other reactions to what happened, it is more reasonable to view this as a test being sent by God. God also used the man's death and the old prophet's affirmation to show the people, *three centuries later*, that they were fulfilling what God had said would happen.

- ✓ Both of the above examples describe situations in which someone was being *tested*. Afterwards (whether they passed the test, or failed it), the "reality" was made known. The intent was *not* to leave the person deceived. (Perhaps this could be viewed as being similar to a "true-false test" that teachers might use, to test a student's learning. False statements may be made; but in the end, the truth is made known.)

24

What if God is somehow involved?

- **EXAMPLE: 1 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 18 (parallel accounts)** – God sends a lying spirit to test king Ahab.

Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the **host of heaven** standing by Him on His right and on His left.

And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one suggested this, and another that.

Then a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will entice him.' 'By what means?' asked the LORD.

And he replied, '**I will go out and be a lying spirit** in the mouths of all his prophets.'

'You will surely entice him and prevail,' said the LORD. 'Go and do it.'

So you see, **the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours**, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you."

1 Kings 22:19-23 (BSB)

25

- ✓ Some people claim that this passage proves that God considers lying to be acceptable in certain situations.
- ✓ This is more like the situation we see in the book of Job. The "host of heaven" does not refer only to "good" heavenly beings. "Evil" ones can also be in God's presence.

One day **the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.**

Job 1:6 (BSB)

- ✓ **In the Job account**, God let Satan test Job's integrity, by causing all sorts of problems for Job. In the end, Job passes the test (although he had to be humbled in some other issues).
- ✓ **In the account about Ahab**, God lets a lying spirit test Ahab (by means of Ahab's false prophets). When exposed to the *truth*, Ahab chooses to follow the advice of the false prophets – thus failing the test and setting himself up for the destruction that God had planned for him.
- ✓ The important thing is to realize that this passage does not "prove" that God endorses lying, any more than he endorses the works of Satan – even when he *permits* them.

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What about other examples?

- ✓ We can look for other situations in which people lied; and we will see that what happened afterwards varies.
- ✓ **If good occurs**, do we automatically claim it "proves" that God endorsed it? Or do we say it was sin, and give credit to God's *grace*, for working *in spite of* it?
- ✓ **What if unexpected evil occurs, instead?** David lied (when wanting to obtain provisions from a priest) – and surely, he must have thought that there was a good reason for the lie. Yet an entire city (priests and their families) was murdered because of it!
- ✓ **How do we know in advance whether our lie will (supposedly) accomplish good?** *We don't!*
 - » If (using the "World War 2" scenario) the authorities who want to kill Jews believe you are hiding some, do you *really* think they'd believe it when you say "NO"? Normally, they would *expect* you to say that! (For it to be different, God would have to intervene.)

27

At this point, is there anything we can conclude?

- **Regarding SCRIPTURE:** 100% of all Scripture's commands, prohibitions and instructions *forbid* lying.
 - ✓ So don't fool yourself. Even if you're convinced that lying is a *legitimate* option in your specific situation, it is *still* sin. You will need to repent and ask for forgiveness – and perhaps confess that you have much to learn about following Jesus. (*Nobody* has learned, and put into practice, everything.)
 - ✓ Clinging to an *imagined* "permission" to sin does not change Scripture's 100%-of-the-time prohibition.
- **Regarding EXAMPLES (past and present):** None of them *prove* that lying is a legitimate option. Some people may think it's the best alternative, in their circumstances; *but our opinions don't prove that lying is a legitimate option*. All it proves is that they (or we) did it.

We need to reiterate this fact: No matter what choice we make, whether or not we believe that lying is a legitimate choice in certain situations, ***we can't guarantee the results!***

28

In a world influenced by sin, making decisions can be difficult.

- **It's NOT God's fault, but our fault (i.e., the human race).**
 - ✓ This includes the sins that *other* people commit, as well as the sins we commit.
 - ✓ But our biggest problem is the influence the world has had on our *minds*. We need *renewed* minds (Romans 12:2) and haven't fully reached the point where we need to be. (It's a life-long process, but our degree of success is dependent on our willingness to let Scripture *change* our values.)
- **Scripture tells us that God always provides a way for us to get through temptation** (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 - ✓ Jesus even showed us that it *can* be done (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15).
 - ✓ We may be tempted to make wrong choices; and even if we *don't* want to, we might still do it. But the issue *isn't* that God hasn't provided a way... it's because we haven't yet learned to look the right place for it... and then to do what we have learned.
 - ✓ We need to make it our goal to keep *growing* in grace and truth.

29

Some potential guidelines.

- **There is NO instance of God giving approval for lying.**
 - ✓ Except when he permitted a lying spirit to deceive Ahab. (This was in the heavenly courts, and probably has no application to the issue at hand.)
- **Scripture does tell us that "love for God" takes precedence over "love for neighbor."**
 - ✓ But *nowhere* do we find anything that suggests that one part of "love for neighbor" takes precedence over a different part of "love for neighbor." (Most, if not all, of these "conflicts" can be resolved by looking for a "love for God" issue that is also present.)
 - ✓ Scripture doesn't tell us that it is permissible for us to lie, in order to prevent a different ("worse") sin from occurring.
 - ✓ If we are convinced that we *must* violate one part of "love for neighbor" for the sake of another part, it is still sin.

30

- **Whether or not a conflict between two "love your neighbor" commandments *really* exists is up for debate.**
 - ✓ If it *does* exist, it is the result of living in a sinful world.
 - ✓ If we, the human race, got ourselves into such a problem, it doesn't cause God's moral standards to change.
- **Probably the best (and first) thing we should do is:** Admit our weakness and the fact that we *do* make imperfect choices (even when we don't want to), and trust God to use the consequences of our choices (as promised in Romans 8:28), even if our choice backfires (which it might, or might not, do).
- **Learn how Jesus responded to issues:** But as you consider his responses, remember this: He placed "responding the right way" over "getting the preferred result." Sometimes the *right* way was considered *unacceptable* by those who opposed him. It might also be unacceptable to those who oppose us (though it would be acceptable to God).

31

Here are some suggestions for what to do, if we *don't* want to lie (and other options probably exist).

Not *all* suggestions will work in *all* situations. And since we can't control another's response, we can't guarantee the end result, *regardless of how we respond.*

- **Silence** – Jesus remained silent, when the religious leaders were interrogating him – Matthew 27:12-14 (a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:7). See also Ecclesiastes 3:7.
- **Speaking the truth, but omitting details that would cause someone else to sin** – We saw an example of this, in 1 Samuel 16.
- **It seems that a temporary misrepresentation of the truth may be acceptable, such as when done in the sense of testing someone.**
 - ✓ But this doesn't necessarily deal with the issue at hand.

Looking for a *third* alternative.

We tend to see our choices as being "*either* this *or* that." But often there will be other alternatives – perhaps many.

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- **Things to say that don't answer their question.** (They might, or might not, interpret this as implying guilt.)
 - ✓ Say you can't or won't answer.
 - ✓ Express your values and why you won't answer.
 - ✓ Appeal to the law (if they're violating it).
 - ✓ Question their own moral position. ("Do you really believe this is right?", etc.)
 - ✓ Appeal to God's authority.
 - ✓ Appeal to Romans 1-2 – that God has embedded *within their consciences* an awareness that they *know* they are doing wrong.
- If you are hiding someone who is wrongly being persecuted:
- **Do something that protects them, or that delays the pursuers** (if escape is an option).

In all this... LOVE!

Your response must be done in a way that reflects love based on truth. For example, it would be *wrong* to answer in a manner like this: "I refuse to answer, you filthy jerk!"

33

OUR MISSION!

This topic is generally considered a difficult and controversial one.

- Some may disagree with the conclusion we have reached.
- We, in our weaknesses, may make choices that we will later regret.

In all this, we're going to need grace toward others; and we'll need to encourage each other...

- To keep seeking the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33),
- To pursue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus and his ways (2 Peter 3:18),
- And to strive to attain the "renewed mind" (Romans 12:2).

34

Consider Peter, when he denied knowing Jesus:

He thought lying was the best option, to save his own life. But consider what he did afterwards:

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." **And he went outside and wept bitterly.**

Matthew 26:75 (NIV)

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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