

LIARS

1 John 2:4 ... “He who says, ‘I know Him [Christ],’ and does not keep his commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him.”

In our previous devotional we addressed the resistance of many people in this culture to hearing the truth and hearing it directly. For instance, if I were to see a teenager in my town take an ice cream from the cooler of the store without paying for it, his parents would most likely be very angry with me for saying, “He stole it.” If someone comes to my compound with the same photocopied hospital bill that someone else brought to me the day before (it happens regularly), and I tell them they are dishonest, they will most likely become very angry and accuse me of greed or selfishness. They might even threaten me.

The guilty parties know these acts are wrong, but in their minds their accusers are worse because they were honest and forthright in accurately describing the sins of the guilty parties.

How many of you can remember when your pastor taught a lesson or presented a sermon on today’s verse? I have never heard a pastor in my area speak on this verse. There are many other verses in the Bible that speak just as directly and honestly, that pastors also ignore or avoid. Why? Because they know that if they use the words: liar, thief, adulterer, sinner, murderer, and more, people in their congregation will be offended and might leave the church. So, pastors keep the topics soft, warm, positive, and non-threatening – which is also, incomplete and untruthful. It is the responsibility of a pastor to present the whole Gospel, not just the portions of it that make people feel good.

If you are a pastor, you are obligated to speak on the hard truths of the Bible because it is those truths that – if your people ignore them – will keep them out of Heaven. If you are not a pastor, you have the same responsibility to the people you care about. And, just to reinforce today’s verse, if you do not keep the commandments of Christ, you are a liar and there is no truth in you. Are you offended by that? Tell God, because it is from His Word, for which I make no apologies.

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