

'No lying' Sermon Notes.

Lying is embedded in our culture.

We live in a society where we are very used to lies

- Companies and organisations lie to us
- The media lies to us
- Colleagues lie to us
- Friends lie to us

We are generally not outraged by these lies we accept them.

We are socialised into this culture.

We become very adept as we grow up at distinguishing lies from truth.

Telling lies and Lying

Many of us will have been brought up with the idea that it is wrong to 'tell lies'.

Have we become sophisticated at 'not lying' whilst still managing not to disclose the whole truth?

Is there a difference between 'telling lies' and 'lying'?

What does it mean when God said to Moses that His people should not lie?

These are rules to help us in community with one another. Although we can lie to God he is not fooled by us, lying affects our relationships with one another and affects the whole community.

Act 5:1-11 - Ananias and Sapphira.

The devil is about concealment, hiding, secrets and conspiracy. He breeds lack of trust in us – he makes us cynical.

John 8:42-45

God's way – being real – living authentic Christian lives

2 Corinthians 3 and 4 – points towards a life of openness and transparency – living in the light of the truth.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

(John 14:6)

Jesus didn't just tell the truth – he lived out the truth, he embodied truth.

We are called to worship in 'Spirit and in truth' John 4:24. We are not worshipping God with our lives if we are not truthful, if we are not authentic.

1 Corinthians 13:6 – Love 'rejoices in the truth'.

Ananias and Sapphira – what is God angry about? Their limited giving or their desire to portray themselves as more holy than they are?

Within community life deception is betrayal.

Being Authentic – the challenges

Am I being real within church and with my Christian brothers and sisters?
Am I sacred to be seen as I really am with my doubts, failings and weaknesses?

Rom 16:7 – accept one another.

Am I being real with those outside of the Christian community?
Do I keep my Christianity hidden or conversely try to project an 'over holy' image of myself?

Missional life style – not about putting on a 'mission' or preparing an event – it's about us – what people see in us – are we authentic? Does what we say and believe ring true in our behaviour?

Jesus said 'The truth shall set you free.' John 8:31-32

If we are real, authentic then we do not run the risk of being 'found out' we simply are who we are in Christ. In this there is freedom.

Jesus is the truth and living authentically as Christians means imitating Him.

John 16:13 'Spirit of Truth'. - In John 15 and 16 Jesus says that when the Spirit comes he will lead us into all truth.

Being Authentic is reflected in our Behaviour

How we behave is reflects who we are. Equally as we change our behaviour we change who we are.

Michael Frost suggests a 'rule' to live by.

B – Bless
E – Eat
L – Learn
L – Listen
S - Send

Small Group Questions

1. Reflect on the challenges below either personally or more generally.

Am I being real within church and with my Christian brothers and sisters?

Am I sacred to be seen as I really am with my doubts, failings and weaknesses?

Am I being real with those outside of the Christian community?

Do I keep my Christianity hidden or conversely try to project an 'over holy' image of myself?

2. Discuss the challenges of living a Missional life style

Does what we say and believe ring true in our behaviour?

3. How we behave reflects who we are. Equally as we change our behaviour we change who we are.

Are 'rules of life' helpful? (See BELLS in sermon notes.)

What could your small group or USBC as a whole adopt as a 'rule of life'?

Pray for one another that the Spirit of Truth would lead us into authentic Christian lives.