

# Cultural Rot

## The Departure from Honesty, Truth and Responsibility

### Points to Consider

1. People Don't Tell the Truth
2. People Don't Believe that Truth Exists
3. People Don't Take Responsibility for Violating Truth

### People Don't Tell the Truth

#### What God Says

**Rev 21:6-8** *And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But 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." NKJV*

Along with many other sins that will punch one's ticket to the everlasting burning fire, is the sin of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Prov 6:12-19** *A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; <sup>13</sup> He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; <sup>14</sup> Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. <sup>15</sup> Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy. <sup>16</sup> These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, <sup>19</sup> A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.*

Verse 13 describes a person who is \_\_\_\_\_. We understand winking in order to deceive. We also are familiar with crossing our fingers in order to deceive.

**Proverbs 20:23** *Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, And dishonest scales are not good.*

Lying to a customer is sinful even if \_\_\_\_\_ else is doing it.

### People do Not Believe that Truth Exists

**John 18:33-37** - *Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are*

*You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

Pilate wants to know if Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus tells him that His kingdom is not of this world, and if it were of this world his servants would fight. That's what kings do. They send their servants to fight wars.

Pilate still didn't understand. He asked Jesus again, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus said that Pilate was \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is the King who came to earth to bear witness of the truth.

**John 18:38** - <sup>38</sup> *Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."*

Pilate wasn't sure if truth \_\_\_\_\_ existed.

**John 17:15-19** *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

Truth \_\_\_\_\_ believers.

Jesus said that God's \_\_\_\_\_ is truth.

**1 Peter 1:22-23** *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. because, "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. NKJV*

Obeying the truth \_\_\_\_\_ our souls.

**Eph 1:13-14** <sup>13</sup> *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Those who are predestined to obtain all spiritual blessings are those who \_\_\_\_\_ the word of truth and **trust** Jesus.

## **People Don't Take Responsibility for Violating the Truth**

### **What God says**

**Exodus 21:22-25** <sup>22</sup> *"If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. <sup>23</sup> But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for*

life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup> burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

God knew that a civil society needed clear laws and \_\_\_\_\_punishments. (Romans 13)

**Acts 5:5-11** <sup>5</sup> Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. <sup>6</sup> And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. <sup>7</sup> Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." <sup>9</sup> Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." <sup>10</sup> Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. <sup>11</sup> So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

God handed out the death penalty many times in order to cause the rest of His people to \_\_\_\_\_and obey.

Brock Turner and Austin Wilkerson – Two young men who raped girls who had passed out drunk.

**Acts 19:1-9** Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. <sup>2</sup> Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." <sup>6</sup> So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup> Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." <sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; <sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Zacchaeus \_\_\_\_\_the responsibility of his possible wrong doing.  
The apostle Paul accepted responsibility for his sins; King Saul did not.

## So What?

1. God knows when we are telling the truth and when we are lying. Tell the truth!
2. Spend some time preparing yourself to have intelligent dialogue with those who might believe that there is no such thing as right or wrong. The Whites shared some videos with the teenagers that dealt with having good discussions with non-believers.
  - a. How do you know?
  - b. Where did you get your information?
  - c. What if you're wrong?
3. Ask someone if they believe in right and wrong. If so, who determines it and how do we know.
4. Accept responsibility for something that you did that was wrong and say you are sorry. Don't stop there! Make it a point to put that out of your life.