

Deception

"Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee."

Genesis 12:13

Have you ever noticed how much deception is promoted on today's television shows? I recently saw a situation comedy where a major character did not want to go through with a prior commitment, so he convinced another character to "make something up" to "cover" for him. If we were really honest, how many of us have used deception to get out of something we did not want to do or to get the upper hand in a business arrangement? I would guess that the practice is more common among Christians than we want to admit.

The Bible has a simple answer for this action: LYING! No matter what we choose to term it, it is lying. It is also still lying no matter if we tell someone we are not in the office when we really are or if we do it to avert a life-threatening situation as in the case of Abraham. Abraham, the father of the faithful, used deception to get out of a potentially deadly situation with Pharaoh. He informed Pharaoh that Sarai was his sister so that Pharaoh would not kill Abraham and take Sarai for his wife. When the plan came to its full fruition, God struck the Egyptians with plagues (Genesis 12:11-19).

Deception or lying has its roots with the father of lies. John 8:44 says, *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."* The master of deception is Satan. When we practice deception, we are serving Satan, no matter how harmless or funny it may all seem.

The word of God gives us a stern warning against lying. Ephesians 4:25 says, *"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."* Deception will ultimately bring upon the one practicing it the wrath of God. Revelation 21:8 says, *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* Let's make sure that we speak the truth with one another and not serve the purposes of the devil.

Kyle Campbell