

Exaggeration, “Supersize It”

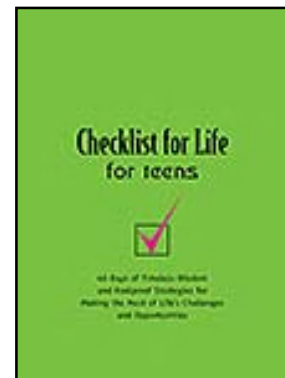
Of course, “supersize” is associated with the fries at a fast-food restaurant; but when assigned to the word, “exaggeration”, is meant to suggest BIG – any maybe too BIG.

Is an exaggeration a lie? Sometimes exaggeration is intended for emphasis – even entertainment – and as long as the listener is pleasantly impressed by such *gift of the gab*, exaggeration can be a great addition to some anecdote or story.

When my kids were younger, we listened to a great comedian and storyteller, Jerry Clower. Jerry was no amateur when it came to the art of exaggeration and, as a standard for any of his stories, reality could be stretched – even to the edge of believability. Sometime this art was referred to as a “yarn” (or *to spin a yarn*).

Back to the book, “supersize” is described as:

When you supersize your stories, you cross the line from fact into fiction, from truth into untruth. Calling it exaggeration may make it sound better, but it’s still a form of lying.



Not to confuse the issue (of exaggeration...supersize), but the message or admission is that a deliberate and deceitful exaggeration is basically a lie. Not when the “audience” understands *the context* (such as a story or yarn); but when the audience (or others) does not understand, and therefore, is deceived – with intention.

This difference may seem like a *gray area*, but the fact of *human nature* is such that we usually know if we were lying...or not; in other words, most people have a grasp of personal truth – even if they are denying it...or denying that that they have lied.

The word “integrity” is *brought to bear* for those who desire to be trustworthy – just as most people do not want to be lied to...or lied about...or be part of a lie. The root word of integrity is “integral” – which means;

Integral: to be complete, whole; essential for completeness; ceasing to do evil...and doing good...

...and you thought its definition between to math only.

Integrity and honesty go *hand in hand*; just as deception and lying...

Do you want to be trustworthy; or do you want to be deceptive and distrustful?

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Homework:

Please try to do these:

- God does not need us to exaggerate...
- Credibility (integrity) is important – even crucial
- Trust God to help you be honest...a person of integrity
- Commit to this cause
- Realize that any lie is still a lie

Things to Do:

- ✓ Confess any sins of exaggeration...and potential deception
- ✓ Examine your reason (or justification) for doing it
- ✓ Pray for help in being honest in word...and deed
- ✓ Plan and prepare for the potential or certainty that exaggerations – even lying – are always possible
- ✓ Our media and public is replete with exaggeration, lies and deception...as can be even the seemingly “close” relationships of family and friends. Please understand that the world is presently controlled by the “father of lies” and thus, lying is the norm among even the most trusted of relationships. In the context of corruption, please be aware that unbridled behavior of this sort is not a license for you to do the same...

Returning to the always useful Proverbs, chapter 6 offers “the things” that God hates or detest. Here are six things God hates, and one more that he loathes with a passion:

1. Eyes that are arrogant
2. A tongue that lies
3. Hands that murder the innocent
4. A heart that hatches evil plots,
5. Feet that race down a wicked track,
6. A mouth that lies under oath,
7. A troublemaker in the family.

Lying and deception is identified in items 2, 4, 6...and potentially 5 and 7. The truth is that lying – or the subversion of truth – is often entangled in other sins. Remember that the first sin (The Garden) involved lying – as did so many more. **The *human condition* is that a sin may invoke the sinner to lie as a means of covering-up or hiding their sin.** Lies lead to more lies and, before you know it, everyone is confused...amid the costs – the breach of trust...