

HONESTY

Some of the information contained in this letter comes from Erwin Lutzer's: *Why Good People Do Bad Things*. My desire is to be honest in all matters and in relationships but, as Lutzer writes, this desire and practice must begin with God.

Honesty has several meanings to include: trustworthy; frank or open; genuine; or gained by fair means. Consider the following possibilities:

- If I lie or cheat on a test, than I am being dishonest
- If I have committed a crime or offense against someone, but deny it, than I am being dishonest
- If I make an allegation toward someone but know it is not true, than I am not telling the truth and am being dishonest
- If I hurt or am in pain {emotional} about something that happened to me or someone I care about, but do not pray about it or ask for healing {for the other and myself}, than I am living in denial or not being honest with myself and with God – although he knows or hurt and pain
- Finally, If I intentionally lie to others whether once or routinely, I am attempting to deceive and mislead them – which is being dishonest

In the book of Job, friends of Job attempt to encourage and console him during much suffering and pain. Although their intentions are worthy, the friends' express reasons or causes for Job's suffering or pain that are simply not accurate or right. In the final chapters, Job says: *Let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless*. Essentially, Job is refuting or denying the reasons or cause alleged or expressed by his friends. Job did bring about this suffering and pain by his actions or behavior; indeed, he was *blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil*. The friends were not intentionally trying to mislead or misdirect Job; therefore, they were not being dishonest.

In a much earlier story, Satan (as a serpent) deceives Eve by convincing her that eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil will not cause her to die. Contrary to God's command and, with full intention to alienate man from God through disobedience or sin, Satan convinced Eve that God's command was simply not true or authentic. The Father of Lies, Satan conceived and planned this act with the full intention of ending man's relationship with God. For this act on Satan's part, both man and the serpent incurred God's judgment.

Again, the first example is not an example of being dishonest – because the friends' intention was sincere and earnest though yielding the wrong reason or cause; however, the second example is a blatant or obvious form of being dishonest. Help me to be honest in all things, in all ways, and in all relationships by your presence in my life and your truth within me.

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WORD