

“Lying to Ourselves”

Ephesians 4: 1 and 25; 1 John 1:8

Sunday August 11, 2018

The 2012 movie starring Jim Carrey, is a tale of a lawyer who lies to everyone including his family. See now these previews for the movies.

Let us pray?

The Apostle Paul write in his letter to the church at Ephesus that they in the past have put away lying. This past decision effects their present situation in the Church which is the body of Christ. They need to tell the truth to one another.

We live in a world in which it seems that there is a lot of lying going on. Lies people tells us...the doctor will be right in, the pharmacist will call you right back, one size fits all, this hurts me more than it hurts you, and I just need 5 minutes of your time.

I recently was reading a book about a pastor from this conference whom did so much to make our Sacramento Methodist Camp and success. His name was Skipper Hall. Some of you may remember him. He was a legean in my time. One that heard a lot about.

In this book that I read recently, it tells about Skipper's growing in the 30's. His mother died giving birth to him. Life was exceptionally tough for them. His dad was a hard working man. He did everything he could to make a go at it. Skipper commented that his dad's only problem was that he took people at their word. Because of people's lies, his dad lost a lot of money.

People in business unfortunately don't always tell the truth. Along came that expression, "get it in writing." I remember kids getting in the military during the Vietnam War. Military recruiters would promise them all kinds of things to get them to sign up and thus meet their quota of recruits. Many a young recruit would complain that they had been promised something, only not to find it to be true when they went off to boot camp.

It is not all business, it is not all recruiters, and it is not all people. I don't imagine that any of you have a difficulty with telling the truth. Yet, I wonder if we don't realize how we lie to ourselves. A lie that we tell ourselves during a time of adversity is nobody else is dealing with this problem that I am dealing with.

Another lie we often tell ourselves is that we will start our diet next week. Another that lie we often tell ourselves that we can't survive on that little amount of food. Often times both of those lies are not true.

A woman made her boyfriend a meals of liver and onions with mashed potatoes. Although, he really didn't like the meal, he did not want to hurt her feelings. So he told her that it was his favorite meal. After they got married every so often she would cook the liver and onions meal. He didn't want to say that he lied to her during their courtship, so he praised her or the meal. He began to tell himself that he liked this meal. After all, this must be her favorite meal.

One night she fixed this meal because she knew things had been rough at work. He took one look at the meal and just exploded. What was wrong she wondered? I just can't eat this meal any more. I told myself that I like this meal because I figured you like it so much. I don't like it and I can't stand liver and onions. The wife says to the husband, I was trying out a new recipe that my mother gave. When you praised it so much, I thought it was your favorite. I told myself, even though I hate liver, I would grow to love it. I can't stand it either.

How about I am too old to change? What about if I am good enough God will let me into heaven?

Here's another lie that people tell to themselves. Things will never change. It will always be them same. Often times we have don't look back at the things that have change. We don't stop to ask ourselves about when did the last adversity start and when did it end.

Another lie is that a relationship with a family member will never change. It is hopeless. I will just have to press on.

Another lie is if I cannot feel God then He is not there.

I John 1: 8 says that if we say we have no sin, than the truth is not in us.

A lie we tell ourselves on bad days, I have a right to lash out at others when they irritate me.

What about the lie that we say to ourselves like, “ I am too old for Jesus to use me any more?” You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.

So what do we do if we believe these things? First, is to admit it. Tell Jesus or someone you trust, that you believe the lie and what the lie is. Where did that lie come from? What is the origin of the lie.

What is the truth in that matter? Take the lie that nobody else is having to deal with adversity that I am having too. I Corinthians 10: 13 tells us that nothing that has happened to us, is uncommon to human beings. Everything we deal with someone else and usually a lot of someone “elses” have dealt with it.

The internet can be helpful is relating others who have experienced such a situation.