

Truth and Lies

It's Complicated - Part 1

April 24, 2022

C.S. Lewis: Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something **other than God** which will make him happy.

²¹Yes, they **knew God**, but they wouldn't **worship** Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²²Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ... ²⁴So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵They traded the truth about God for a lie. ... "Romans 1:21-22, 24-25 (NLT)

In order for relationships to work, let the One who designed them define them.

*"The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, 'Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?' ²'Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,' the woman replied. ³'It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'⁴'You won't die!' the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵'God knows that **your eyes will be opened** as soon as you eat it and **you will be like God**, knowing both good and evil.'⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷At that moment their eyes were opened, and they **suddenly felt shame at their nakedness**. So they sewed fig leaves together to **cover themselves**." Genesis 3:1-7 (NLT)*

Lie #1: "God's Word isn't totally true."

The devil gets us to question God's Word.

Do I move God's Word to fit how I want to be?

Do I move myself to fit God's Word?

Timothy Keller: If your god never disagrees with you, you might just be worshipping an idealized version of yourself.

Lie #2: "That choice won't hurt anything."

The devil scoffs at the negative consequences of sin.

*"There is a path before each person that **seems right**, but it ends in **death**." Proverbs 14:12 (NLT)*

Passions need parameters.

Lie #3: "Righteousness is boring. Sin is fun."

The devil accuses God of evil intent.

*"You make known to me the **path of life**; in your presence there is **fullness of joy**; at your right hand are **pleasures forevermore**." Psalm 16:11 (ESV)*

The most loving thing God does is call us out of our sin.

Lie #4: “Your life will be better with you leading it.”

The devil advertises sin as beneficial.

*“¹⁹Don’t you realize that your **body** is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)*

Giving up something now for something better later isn’t a sacrifice. It’s an investment.

Lie #5: “It’s too late. Run and hide.”

The devil uses sin to create shame that destroys our future relationships.

“Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.” Psalm 34:5 (NLT)

This church is not a showcase for saints but a hospital for sinners.

Three possible responses:

Defensiveness

*“... I want **Your will** to be done, not mine.” Luke 22:42 (NLT)*

Remorse

*“So now there is **no condemnation** for those who **belong to Christ Jesus**.” Romans 8:1 (NLT)*

Repentance

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

Repentance is a moment of pain. Being unrepentant is a lifetime of pain.