

Honesty and Lying

Proverbs 4:24; 6:16–19; 8:1–7; 12:22; 13:5

- God hates lying and any kind of deception.
- Research on lying:
 - 60% of Americans can't have a 10-minute conversation without lying at least once.
 - Most people tell an average of four lies per day.
 - 13% of people admit to lying and 32% to “stretching the truth” to their doctor.

Proverbs 4:24; 6:16–19; 8:1–7; 12:22; 13:5

- Research on lying:
 - 30% of people lie about their diet and exercise regimens.
 - 31% of people admit to lying on their resumes.
 - The average child begins to tell lies between the ages of two and three.
 - 70% of liars claim they would tell the same lies again.

Proverbs 4:24; 6:16–19; 8:1–7; 12:22; 13:5

- Lying is something the world does regularly, but as Christians, we are to be different from the world.
- Jesus identified two opposing kingdoms, one of lies and one of truth.
- He said Satan is the prince of this world and referred to him as “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). But He called Himself the Prince of Peace and referred to Himself as the truth (John 14:6).
- Those of us who follow Jesus, who are citizens of His kingdom, are to also walk in truth, not in falsehood.

Proverbs 4:24; 6:16–19; 8:1–7; 12:22; 13:5

- Proverbs tells us that wisdom only speaks truth (8:1–7), that God and His righteous ones hate falsehood (6:16–19; 13:5).
- Scripture tells us that God does not lie as men do (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2).
- He only speaks truth because He is Truth.
- By His very character, in His holiness, He is incapable of lying.
- If we are people of God, reflecting His image and His character, we will also speak truth.

Proverbs 4:24; 6:16–19; 8:1–7; 12:22; 13:5

- Paul said when we become believers, we take off our old self, which is “of the world” and includes falsehood and “deceitful desires.”
- We put on the new self, which is like Christ, who speaks only truth and builds others up instead of tearing them down (Ephesians 4:20–32).
- When we follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6), we should speak only truth.

Proverbs 4:24; 6:16–19; 8:1–7; 12:22; 13:5

- When he talked about speaking truth to one another, Paul said, “since you have put away lying....”
- Lying is part of our old self.
- It is something in our past, something we have put away. It’s something the world does, not believers.
- God is a God of truth, so as His people, we are to be people of the truth.

Proverbs 4:24; 6:16–19; 8:1–7; 12:22; 13:5

- That means we speak truth even when it is hard. We don't lie to spare feelings or "keep the peace."
- We are called to speak the truth in love, never out of anger or jealousy or to stir up conflict but to bring reconciliation and peace (Ephesians 4:15–16).
- Think about the way Jesus approached every person He encountered. He spoke truth. He brought life. And He built people up.
- Even when He criticized the hypocrites, he spoke the truth boldly not to tear them down, but to lead them to repentance.

P 14:5,25;19:22;24:26,28–29;26:24–28

- Lying only brings pain and destruction to others and to ourselves.
- As part of a list of seven things, all of which are ways someone hurts other people to benefit themselves, Proverbs says God hates lying (6:16–19).
- Proverbs 26 warns us not to trust in those with “gracious” speech because there are countless abominations in their heart. Those who sound charming, whose words are as smooth as “a glaze covering an earthen vessel” are often hiding an evil heart (26:23).
- That’s what it’s like when a liar uses smooth words and charm.

P 14:5,25;19:22;24:26,28–29;26:24–28

- Evil will always be exposed in the end, but it can do a lot of damage in the meantime.
- Eventually those who lie will be hurt by their own deception (26:27).
- Proverbs tells us that only pain and ruin come from deception.
- Whether you realize it or not, lying is an act of hatred toward the person you are deceiving (26:28).
- You may think your lies don't hurt anyone, but they always do.

P 14:5,25;19:22;24:26,28–29;26:24–28

- Many of these proverbs use the same phrasing as the ninth commandment – not just “lying,” but “bearing false witness.” This isn’t just about lying; it’s about lying about someone – slander.
- The testimony of one witness was not considered reliable; it had to be corroborated by at least one other person. And if witnesses’ testimonies were too similar, they were also considered unreliable, as suspected collusion.
- Personal testimony was so important that if a witness was found to be lying, he received the punishment for the crime he was accusing the other person of (Deuteronomy 19:15–21).

P 14:5,25;19:22;24:26,28–29;26:24–28

- It would be easy for us to read these passages and say, “If this is only about not lying in court, no problem. I’d never do that!” But it’s much deeper.
- It’s about bearing false testimony about your neighbor anywhere – in court, at the dinner table, or over coffee with a friend.
- God says He will destroy anyone who secretly slanders his neighbor, not just openly in court (Psalm 101:5) – any slanderous word, including gossip, not just “official” false witness.

P 14:5,25;19:22;24:26,28–29;26:24–28

- Over and over, Scripture talks about slander as sin.
- Proverbs says God hates slander (Proverbs 6:16–19), that it “lies in wait for blood” (Proverbs 12:6) and “separates close friends” (Proverbs 16:28).
- Paul told believers to speak the truth to one another because we belong to one another; we’re members of one body.
- How can the body work together if its members aren’t honest with one another?

P 14:5,25;19:22;24:26,28–29;26:24–28

- Lying and slander are also evil because of what they do to the one who speaks untruth.
- Jesus said it is what comes out of our mouths that defiles us because it reveals what is in our hearts (Matthew 12:36–37; 15:18–20).
- We “pour out lies” and stir up conflict because of pride, arrogance and jealousy.
- We tear someone else down to make ourselves feel better.
- We lie to get out of trouble or manipulate a situation to our favor.

10:18–21; 12:17–22; 19:5, 9; 20:17; 21:6, 28

- Lying never pays off in the long run.
- We learn that lying is not only inconsistent with God's character and hurts other people, but it also almost never actually works.
- Lies are almost always found out. Most of us have experienced this.
- Once you start lying, you have to tell more lies to cover up the original lie, and it snowballs until you just can't control it anymore.
- Some criminals may get away with their crimes, but a false witness will typically be found out and suffer the consequences (19:5; 19:9).

10:18–21;12:17–22;19:5,9; 20:17; 21:6, 28

- Proverbs 20:17 uses colorful imagery and antithetical parallelism (the second line contrasts with the first) to make its point: Good things acquired dishonestly will not bring satisfaction.
- It may “taste sweet” at first, but eventually, you end up with a mouth full of gravel. That’s such a strong image; we can almost taste and feel it when we read. Not only would gravel taste horrible, but it could also cause damage to your mouth and teeth.
- Lying, deception and dishonesty never pay off in the long run.

10:18–21;12:17–22;19:5,9; 20:17; 21:6, 28

- Meanwhile, Proverbs 21:6 gives us two more strong images.
- A fortune made by a lying tongue is: (1) a fleeting vapor – it disappears into thin air and (2) a deadly snare – it can entrap you in pain and punishment.
- Lies, even white lies, can take a toll on our mental health. They may start small, but they always grow, and the things we're hiding become bigger, scarier and more real. But the truth can set us free.
- Lying can also create a false identity and trust issues. People won't know you fully if you are characterized by deception.

10:18–21; 12:17–22; 19:5, 9; 20:17; 21:6, 28

- Paul described his relationship with Jesus in this way, “ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).
- Paul put Jesus in control, who is the One who is the Truth
- Abiding in Christ, giving him control, viewing our lives as His will inevitably cause truth to become important to us.
- If I desire people to see Christ in me, they must see the truth.

Lying in America

Lying is the New Normal

U.S. & WORLD INDEPTH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

‘You can’t handle the truth’: 96 percent of Americans admit to lying

By Amy Choate-Nielsen, Columnist & contributor | Mar 28, 2014, 6:10pm EDT

*By Amy Choate-Nielsen
Deseret News*

OPINION

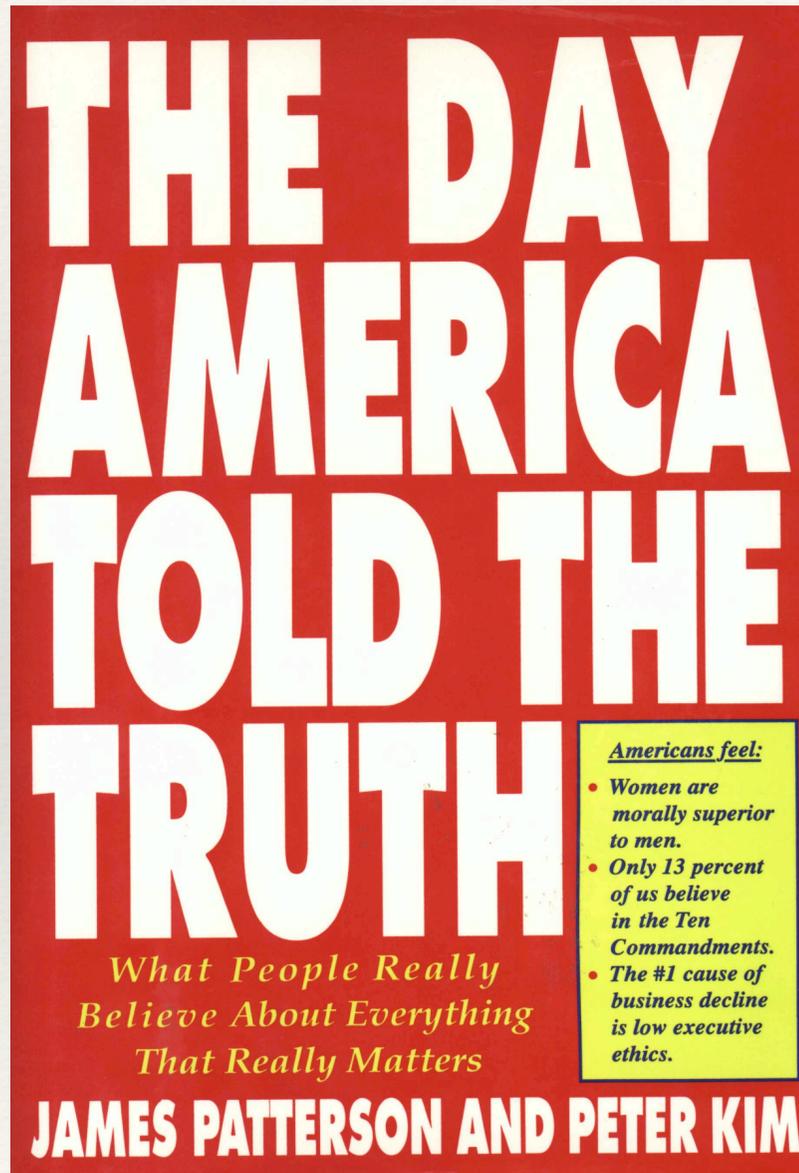
When did lying become the new normal in America



By **CRAIG FARRAND** |

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Lying is the New Normal



- Americans are making up their own rules, their own laws.
- Only 13 percent believe in all Ten Commandments.
- Only 40 percent believe in five of the Ten Commandments.
- Lying has become an integral part of the American culture, a trait of the American character. 91% of us lie regularly.

Lying in Politics

All American presidents have lied – the question is why and when

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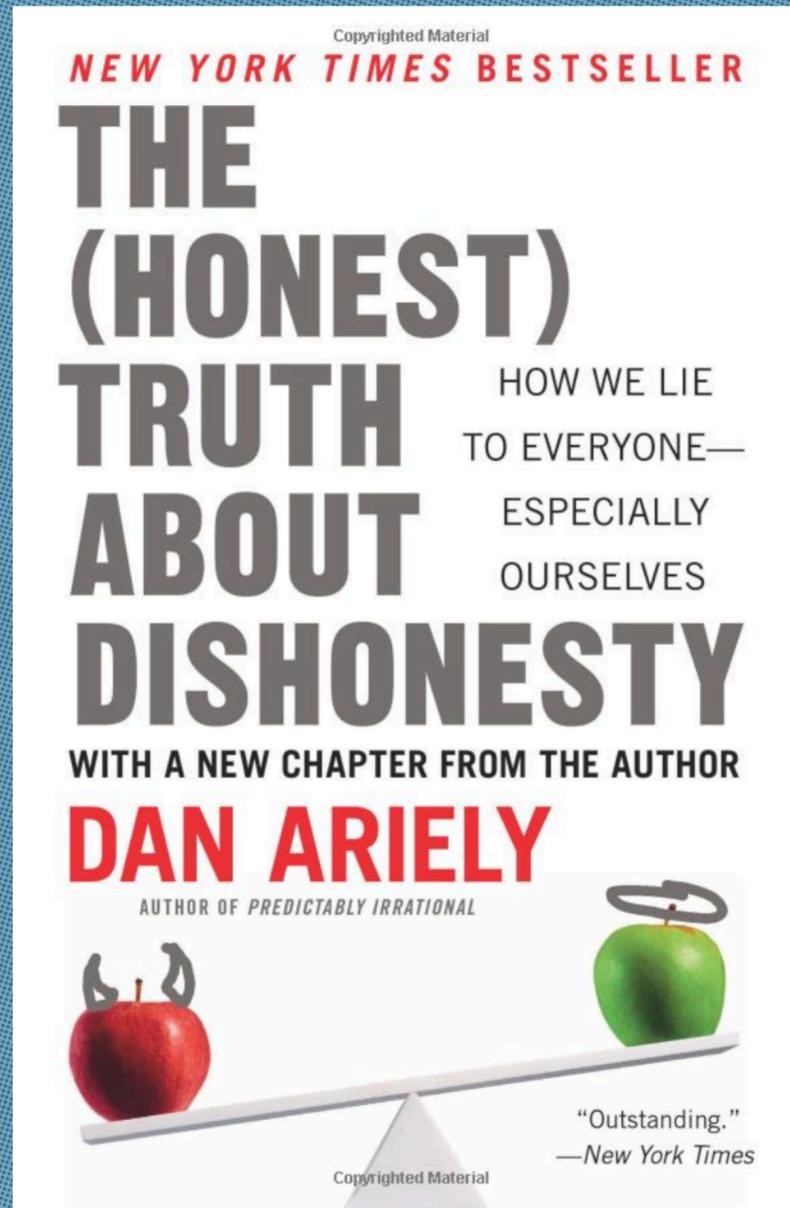
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Partners

A Culture of Lying



L y i n



S a m H a r r i s

Speaking Truth in a Culture That Lies

