

White Lies and Whoppers

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Have you ever told a lie? Even a little white lie? We seem to judge whether a lie is okay or not by whether it is a little white lie or a “whopper.” A whopper is a large untruth told to greatly deceive someone, while a little one is just a shading of the truth either to spare someone’s feelings or to spare embarrassment.

I think most of us have told both of them at one time or another. One that I have been known to tell is really not believable. I will sometimes be with a group of people when we hear a song and I’ll say, “I wrote that song.” No one believes me and we go on with our conversation.

One time I was with a group and after claiming authorship of three or four songs, I heard another song and asked, “Do you know who wrote that song?” One person answered, “Let me guess! You did!” I replied, “Of course not! Don’t be ridiculous! I didn’t write that song!” I pause, then, “My brother did.”

On another occasion, I was on an elevator in Korea with my family. It was near Christmas time and we heard a Carole being played over the PA system. I said to no one in particular, “I wrote that song.” A stranger looked at me and said, “Then you are missing out on lots of royalty payments.”

The thing about telling lies is that it doesn’t matter whether it is a whopper or a small, harmless, unbelievable lie; it is still a lie. If it isn’t the truth, it can only be called one thing: a lie. We try to call it by other things, but that doesn’t disguise what it really is. Either it is true or it isn’t. If it isn’t, it is a lie.

Just like lies, we have other things in our lives that we try to disguise. In fact, whether it is a lie, or any other wrong-doing, they all fall into the same category, sin. Most of us don’t even like to admit that we have sin in our lives. When we do admit to it, we try to minimize it and make it appear that it isn’t too bad. But regardless how we feel about it, sin is still sin.

Recently, I was bowling on my Wednesday night league, and one bowler on the other team was having an off night. She wanted to know why she was doing so badly and what God was trying to teach her through it all. I told her she was bowling badly because of unresolved sin in her life. We joked much of the evening about her and her “secret sin.” In actuality, I don’t think sin had anything to do with how she bowled. Further, I don’t think God get too involved in our bowling games, but that is a subject for another article.

The truth is, that while sin may not have an effect on our bowling, it does affect our lives. When we continue to sin without remorse, we develop patterns of sin. As these patterns continue, they become habits, then a lifestyle. This is very difficult to change. Therefore, the easiest and most beneficial thing to do is, when we find ourselves committing a sinful act, confess it to God, ask his forgiveness, and then examine ourselves. If you need help finding your way out of a pattern of sin or a sinful lifestyle, talk to me or another minister and let us help you. You will find the rewards of living a better lifestyle to be immense. No lie!

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.