

CHARACTER COUNCIL OF HAMBURG
September '04 Spiritual Reflection on the virtue of
TRUTHFULNESS.

Most of us believe that we are truthful most, if not all of the time. But are we? Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" Indeed. In order to be truthful, we must first know what truth is. For Christians truth comes from two perspectives. The first and foremost perspective is that of God's truth, His Word. "Thy Word is truth." While there are many in the world today who would say that there are "no absolutes," that statement itself *is* an absolute and thereby disproves itself. God's Word is absolute truth or it is nothing. Truth, both God's and man's is total, complete and absolute. There is in reality no such thing as partial truth. Truth and truthfulness by their very nature are all or nothing. It is like being a "little pregnant," you either are or you are not. Truthfulness is the same, you either are or you are not. Even if truth comprises 99% of a thought, statement, event or principle, the 1% disqualifies the whole from being truthful.

So it is too with the second perspective of truth: Man's statements of truth as being accurate accounts of statements, thoughts, feelings or events. One cannot be truthful without being 100% truthful. Scripture is clear. It commands us not to bear or give false witness against another and tells us that God hates a lying heart, while calling Satan the "father of lies." Does a Christian need any more perspective than that?

What does truthfulness require? For a Christian to be truthful requires him to continually fill himself with the Truth of God's Word, and then he must do it. If a man does not perform the truth, he is not truthful to himself. Jesus said, "If you continue in My Word, then are you my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." How often we only repeat the last part of the statement? But the last half of the statement is totally dependent upon the first for its truth. The result of truthfulness is freedom. When one is truthful, he does not have to remember a long string of lies or complex tales, but only the truth: The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth – that is truthfulness. What freedom!

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