

this way or it may be that way and it makes no difference. There is no truth that can be altered or twisted without doing some kind of damage. Jesus said we must let our **yes be yes** and our **no be no** (Matthew 5:37). In the end, a liar will be cast into eternal punishment because the Heavenly Father can not tolerate his unholy character (Revelation 21:8).

Don't forget that the most dangerous type of lying is self-deception. Self-deception leads to self-destruction because the liar believes his own lies. The Psalmist writes "*For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.*" (Psalm 36:2) Such a person will not be able to repent of sin because he can not see it or he no longer realizes how much God hates it (Isaiah 59:1-3). He grieves the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 63:10, Ephesians 4:30, Hebrews 10:26-29, 1 Thessalonians 5:19). The Holy Spirit can no longer work in his life to convict him of his sin or enable him to be a blessing to others. In the end he will join the worst of sinners in eternal hell because of self-inflicted ignorance of the truth.

When we tell someone what they want to hear, we are only encouraging them in their self-deception. We become a part of their problem. We share in their failure to please God. And, we may also share in their eternal punishment. The Apostle Paul told us to *Speak the truth in love*" (Ephesians 4:14-16) By doing this, we make the church strong and directly connect it to the head, Jesus Christ.

Contact the Christian Leadership Training Institute for three month's of Sunday School lessons on this subject and others related to it.

Christian Leadership Training Institute
P.O. Box DD168
Dodowa, Accra
GHANA

THE HONEST TRUTH



Honest means without falsehood or deception. **Truth** is a fact that can not be denied. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everything we heard, everything we read and everything we saw were the honest truth. However, life is not that simple. Mankind has been guilty of lying ever since Satan deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit. The knowledge of good and evil gained from eating that fruit gave mankind the ability to lie. There are so many ways to lie that it is hard to avoid them. Let us look at some of the ways we lie.

DIRECT AND COMPLETE LIE: A direct and complete lie is one that is completely false. It contains no truth and is pointed directly at a fact that can not be denied. Satan told Eve that she would not die if she ate the forbidden fruit. That was completely opposite to the warning God gave to Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:17, 3:4).

HALF-TRUTH: A half-truth is a statement that contains both truth and falsehood. A half-truth alters, twists or stretches the truth to include a lie. It is an effort to deceive someone into believing a lie because some known truth is