

They Are Liars

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Let me spend a few minutes discussing whether a Christian should call someone a liar or not.

It is easy to spot the faults of other people. It is easy to recognize when people are being too hard (harsh and condemning) toward other people, just as it is easy to recognize when people are being too soft (tolerant) toward other people.

When we look in the mirror, do we realize that we have the same dilemma—sometimes we are too hard on people and sometimes we are too soft on people?

Reason for softness

Can you think of any scriptures that influence you to show softness toward someone?

Matthew 7:1-5—"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Romans 2:21-23—"You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, 'Do not commit adultery,' do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?"

Galatians 6:1—"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."

James 2:13—"For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Reason for toughness

Can you think of any scriptures that influence you to show toughness toward someone?

- 1 Corinthians 5:1-2
- Titus 1:13
- Titus 2:15

What does God hate?

Bible students are aware that God says He hates things.

Revelation 2:6—"But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."

Revelation 2:15—"Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate."

Justifiable anger

Bible students are aware of scriptures about being angry in a proper fashion.

- James 1:19-20—We want to be slow to anger.
- Ephesians 4:26-27—We want to address our anger in a timely fashion and in a proper manner.
- Romans 12:19—If we are unable to address our anger directly to someone (due to troubling circumstances), we can share our anger with God.

Justifiable irritation

At this time, I am feeling justifiable irritation. I share this with my friends because I know that many of you are feeling the same.

If you are not irritated right now, good for you. You don't have to be irritated. But please don't look down your nose at individuals who are feeling justifiable irritation.

I want to share a scripture with you that sums up how many of us are feeling.

Revelation 2:2—"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars."