

RUSSELL SANDERS

6-10-2020

HONESTY IS NOT THE BEST POLICY

You have heard people say, “honesty is the best policy.” Perhaps you have said it yourself.

Some people would disagree. They feel that an occasional “little white lie” is acceptable if it is to protect someone. There may be other justifications they offer. They will say it doesn’t hurt anybody. They do not believe in absolute honesty in all situations.

I will concede that there are times when it may be better to say nothing than to speak absolute truth. It is better to say nothing than to say something that is not true or to speak a truth that would be hurtful and unproductive.

The Bible is clear that it is never acceptable to lie. Even a “little white lie” is still just as much a lie as a “big black lie.”

I have taught my children and others that the real lie is “honesty is the best policy.” To say that and believe it means that there could be a policy other than honesty. If honesty is “the best,” then what other alternatives are viable? It leaves the door open for that which is dishonest. It leaves open the choice of the occasional lie.

What I have always taught is “honesty is the ONLY policy.” That leaves no alternatives. It makes it clear that a lie is never acceptable no matter how innocent it might seem.

Yes, honesty is the only policy, not the “best policy”. Either be honest or say nothing. Never lie.