

The Martyr Complex

A martyr is someone who dies for a cause (country, religion, etc.). Those who have a "martyr complex," however, basically seek out suffering or persecution as a way of looking like a victim to others (gaining pity) or feeling special about themselves (we must be righteous if we are willing to suffer like this). Of course those who have such a complex would deny that they do it. Yet, they are usually pretty quick to tell people how much they have been mistreated and abused by others. Sadly, this can be very destructive to relationships because it is often used in a manipulative way. They claim to be mistreated, and when anyone differs with them at all they use that as confirmation that they are still being mistreated. It can also be used as a way of avoiding taking responsibility because nothing is ever really their fault. There are varying degrees of this.

Preachers can fall prey to the problem. They are in a situation that is never lacking its critics, and when crossed a few times they can begin to think that they are being deliberately persecuted and attacked, and, of course, those who do so are just mean, ungracious, and probably pharisaical (the catch-all for anyone who differs with us). Perhaps they then think that they can gain credibility by telling others how much they have suffered "for the cause of Christ." People, then, of course should pity them and never say anything in contradiction. Of course, any such negativity is just that much more evidence that they are being martyred. In reality they have none to blame but themselves, though they likely won't take personal responsibility for it. They were just teaching truth, after all.

by Doy Moyer

How often do we bring these problems upon ourselves? We may, unnecessarily, say and do the very things that we know will bring criticism and rebuke from others. We "prime the pump" purposefully, then when the criticism comes as we know it will, we feel justified in our claims to be the victim, and we readily point that out.

All of this manipulates the feelings of others and deepens the divisions between those who want to give us that pity and those who have legitimate critiques. We end up seeking out those who will pat us on our backs, mocking those who are our detractors with pejorative labels, and feeling justified that we have stood up for what's right. Some will hardly tolerate a word to the contrary.

If it is necessary to become true martyrs for the cause of Christ, then so be it. However, let's be careful not to manufacture our own problems unnecessarily. And do we really need to go about telling others how terribly we've suffered at the hands of ungracious brethren? Even if that were true, how does this help the work of the Lord?

"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory." (Col. 3:2-4).



Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joanetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sulli- vanne's broth- er)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	Charles Hunt, (Chuck Hunt's dad)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	John Duke (Jared John- son's cousin)

July Birthdays

- 1-Collins Hanners
- 2-Josh Gooch
- 8-David DeFoor
- 8-Angela Fernandez
- 11-Chase Winslett
- 11-Madi White
- 11-Clay Morris
- 14-Laurel Jerkins
- 14-Megan Hester
- 15-Bradley Seymore
- 16-Katie Martin
- 17-Whitney Sutton
- 19-Jay Borden
- 21-Tori Luther
- 22-Kate Fortenberry
- 24-Haley Gay
- 24-Carla Zacarias
- 25-Betty Bradford
- 25-Yvette Rouse
- 26-Brandon Hester
- 27-Tiffany Green
- 29-Hayden Phillips

News and Notes

- ☒ - Please pray for the Lauderdale's son, Shawn, who was in a car accident this week, injuring his jaw.
- ☒ - Anna Price had successful surgery on Thursday to insert a shunt. She is recovering well.
- ☒ - Jeremiah Johnson's cousin's baby son, Alexander Locke, has made progress toward going home!
- ☒ - Toni Herd's niece, Amber, is now home from the hospital.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis and Xiang Li.
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison will undergo a series of surgeries/procedures beginning on July 19.
- ☒ - All audio is posted to www.auchurch.com. CD's will be in the foyer after services.
- ☒ - We ask our visitors to fill out a visitors card and give it to any member!

The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Thoughts to Ponder

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. (Ephesians 4:25)

Elders
Walker Davis
(334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse
(334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

The Problem of Lying

By Dee Bowman

I preached this last Lord's Day on the problem of lying. I believe it to be one of the most prevalent and damaging problems in the lives of not only the world, but Christians as well. It has become epidemic. It is in our private relationships, our families, our social lives, our business practices. It's everywhere--at school, at the golf course, at the PTA meeting, even in the church.

Coincidentally, The Houston Post, in its June 4 issue, carried a review of The Day America Told the Truth, a new book by J. Walter Thompson Advertising Exec., Peter Kim and his associate James Patterson. It is an astonishing look at the morals of our people. The picture is not pretty. For instance:

-- 91% of Americans lie regularly

The problem is huge, greater than most of us realize. Let every man examine himself and take care about lying. Let every person be impressed with the value of truth. And let us teach our children that all lies are sin.

-- 63% of American men and 52% of American women have lied to protect themselves.

-- 40% of the people interviewed admitted to having lied on job applications.

-- 62% think there's nothing morally wrong with the affairs they're having.

-- And get this: 13% of the people have had an affair with a fellow worker. And 26% have shoplifted.

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What a sad description of our times! How deplorable that people have such little regard for truth, such little respect for morality.

Can you believe that?

A lie is a false statement deliberately presented as being true; something meant to deceive or give a wrong impression. And we all have trouble with that at various times, some chronically. My Dad once spoke of a man who “would lie for a check when he could get cash for telling the truth.”

Why do people lie? Sometimes it's done to deceive (**Psalms 50:19**); sometimes to shirk responsibilities (**Luke 14:18**, An excuse is not a reason, it's a lie); sometimes out of fear (**Matt. 26:69-74**, Peter's denial). And sometimes it's done to hurt someone (**Gen. 39:14-17**, Potiphar's wife); or to get gain (**Acts 5:1-10**, Ananias and Sapphira).

And yes, there is such a thing as a religious lie (**1 Tim. 4:12; Rom. 1:25**). **2 Cor. 11:13-15** is an apt description of those televangelists who have duped people in this age by making claims of inspiration or having powers like those of the apostles'. They have charmed old ladies out of fortunes, talked the ignorant and superstitious out of their life savings, while they live in houses with gold-plated faucets or carry on illicit relationships with prostitutes. This is religion?

Some lies are hard to detect. Self-righteousness, for instance, looks good

on the surface, but is no more than a subtle lie, an impression created to deceive (**Matthew 27:27-28**).

One of the worst forms of lying--and very subtle--is the innuendo. It is a rather indirect implication or impression which often takes the form of an insinuation. In fact, the word is from the Latin *innuere*, “to nod to.” Some of us nod just at the right time to leave a wrong or derogatory impression. And one of the worst forms of the same is to not stand up for a friend when you know what is being said is not so. Dereliction in such instances is no different than a blatant lie. I see entirely too much of this among brethren!

There are other forms of subtle lies: To appear to be more than you are. To discredit someone who has been praised. To transfer suspicion. To procreate gossip. To get ahead in line. And that most subtle of lies, self-deception, lying to yourself about yourself.

The end of all liars is predicted. Lying is repulsive to God (**Prov. 16:16**). He warns against it (**Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9; 1 Pet. 3:10**). He will punish all liars (**Prov. 19:5; Rev. 21:27**). Make no mistake about it, God will deal with all liars, those who make lies and those who proliferate them.

No one is immune. The problem is huge, greater than most of us realize. Let every man examine himself and take care about lying. Let every person be impressed with the value of truth. And let us teach our children that all lies are sin.



The “Fiery” Member

By Kyle Campbell

Some people carry instruments of life and death with them every day. For example, policemen wear loaded guns and physicians wield powerful drugs. These people have a keen sense of responsibility. Certainly such powerful instruments should never be put into the hands of a foolish, immature, or irresponsible person. Likewise, every one of us carries and wields another kind powerful instrument every day. Unfortunately, this instrument is not reserved for only the wise, mature, and responsible person. The instrument that I am referring to is the human tongue. A thoughtful and kind tongue can encourage the weak and exhort the wayward. It can give life! A foolish and malicious tongue can destroy personalities and reputations. It can kill! All of us need to feel a keen sense of responsibility for the use of our tongues.

Of all the things that can get us into trouble, I guess our words top the list. It is much easier to provoke someone with what you say than it is with what you do. The old proverb, “It's easier said than done” has some truth to it after all! A few small words that are carelessly spoken can create discord and hostility between brethren. It is amazing that it takes so little effort stir up major problems in a congregation.

The apostle James charged the brethren that the way to “perfection” is through control of the tongue. He says, “For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body” (**3:2**). “Perfect” means mature, or full of moral and spiritual growth. The one who has learned true control of the tongue is worthy of being called mature or perfect.

Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” The tongue is capable of doing great good. **Proverbs 15:4, 23** say, “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life ... a word spoken in due season, how good is it.” However, the tongue is also capable of doing great harm. Psalm 39:1 says, “I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.”

The two examples used in **James 3**, the horse's bit and the ship's rudder, should impress upon us the influence and power of the tongue. Though a bit is only a small piece of metal, it is able to completely control the body. Likewise, a ship is driven by great and powerful winds, but the pilot can control its direction by using a small rudder. See how easy it is for our lives to be guided by such a small instrument!

The tongue is indeed a mighty instrument. James says,

“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (**3:6**). We can literally end friendships and make mortal enemies with just a few words from the tongue. It really strikes me that such a seemingly insignificant “member” can be so powerful and dangerous. James further said, “But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (**3:8**).

We could probably spend all day thinking about the “evils” of the tongue. Moreover, we could spend hours devising ways in which the tongue could be used for evil purposes. Yet, Paul taught in several places that gossip, slandering, boastfulness and arrogance are all evil uses of the tongue. Think about how many times a day we are inclined to say the wrong kinds of things.

Every day, some of us use our tongues to talk about our brethren, to curse and swear, to take God's name in vain, to promote jealousy, rivalry, envy, etc. James said, “Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be” (**3:10**). It sickens me to see us use our tongues in this manner!

I know how easy it is to slip in a few words here and there about other people. It catches you before you know it. James' point is that with our mouths we bless God but then we turn right around and curse men; who have been made in the likeness or image of God. We need to be a people who are consciously aware at all times of what we say and how we use our tongues. God gave us this “instrument” to do good, not to “bite and devour one another” (**Galatians 5:15**).

Paul taught in **1 Thessalonians 5:11**, “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.” God wants us to have the kind of love that builds us up, not tears us down. The answer to using our tongues correctly comes down to the point of love. Do we love each other enough to look out for one another? Do we love each other enough to want to build up and edify? Do we love each other and God enough to obey the command Paul gave? I hope your answer is yes.

When people get to gossiping and not looking out for each other, catastrophe will be the ultimate result. I wonder how many of the Lord's churches have been destroyed by the “fiery” member? It can get out of control so easily. Listen to Paul as he says, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus ...” (**Colossians 3:17**). Are you doing it?

