

EXERCISE

AGAINST

LYING.

FOR THE USE OF THE

CHARITY-SCHOOLS.



A NEW EDITION.



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LYING

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QUESTION

W. H. LESTER, the Hon. Com.

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Chancellor of the Exchequer

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QUESTION.

WHICH of the Ten Commandments forbids *Lying*?

Ans. It is included in the Ninth; *Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour*. For in every Commandment, all the Kinds, and Degrees, and Tendencies to the Duty enjoined, or the Sin forbidden, is also commanded or forbidden; and therefore ought to be carefully observed, or shunned accordingly.

Quest. But is not *Lying* expressly forbidden in the Moral Law?

Ans. Yes: It is plainly and expressly forbidden by God himself, *Levit. xix. 11. Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither Lie one to another.*

Quest. Can you believe that God, who is stiled *the God of Truth*, will have any delight in *Liars*, or look on them as his Children?

Ans. No: we are told, *Prov. xii. 22. that lying Lips are an Abomination to the Lord; but they that deal truly are his Delight.*

Quest. What Opinion had holy David of *Liars*?

Ans. This Man after God's own Heart declares, *he bates and abhors Lying*, *Psal. cxix. 163.* and that *he that telleth Lies shall not tarry in his Sight*, *Psal. ci. 7.* And he has
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noted it, as one Qualification of him that shall dwell in God's Tabernacle, or rest upon his holy Hill, *that he speaketh the Truth from his Heart*, Psalm xv. 1, 2.

Quest. Is not *Lying* also forbid in the New Testament?

Ans. Yes; St. Paul expressly forbids us to *lie one to another*; and exhorts us, that *putting away Lying* we should *speak every Man Truth with his Neighbour*, Colos. iii. 9. and Ephes. iv. 25.

Quest. But may we not sometimes tell a *Lie*, to hide or excuse a Fault?

Ans. No, by no Means; for that would be a greater Aggravation of the Fault, and add a heavy Guilt to it. And though we may possibly think to escape Punishment by telling a Lie; yet, how

well soever we may come off for the present, the Guilt of that will certainly, sooner or later, bring a worse Punishment upon us. For the Scripture assures us, that *he that speaketh Lies shall not escape*, Prov. xix. 5 and has given us a sad Instance of God's Severity against *Liars*, in the Story of *Ananias* and *Sapphira* his Wife, who were both struck dead in their Sin, *Acts v.*

Quest. But what if our *Parents*, or any other *Superiors*, should command us to tell a *Lie*, to excuse their Faults, or please their Humour?

Ans. We must *obey* God rather than *Men*; and not sin to please or oblige any Body, though we were to get ever so much by it. But, to be sure, we can never get so much as we shall lose by it; For by it we lose the Love and Favour of Al-

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mighty

mighty God, which is more worth than all the World besides. And therefore as we value his Favour, or fear his Displeasure, we must be careful never to be guilty of *Lying*, or any other known, or wilful Sin; though others should be so wicked as to persuade us to it.

Quest. Is not *Lying* a Breach of our Baptismal Vow?

Ans^w. It is in a special Manner one of the *Works of the Devil*, which we promised to renounce in our Baptism. And unless we are willing to lose all the Graces and Privileges we were then intitled to, and become again Children of Wrath, Enemies of God, and Heirs of eternal Damnation; we must renounce, avoid, and forsake them, so as not to do them any more.

Quest.

Quest. Who is the Father of *Lies*?

Answ. We are told by our Saviour Himself; *The Devil is a Liar, and the Father of it*, John viii. 44. Besides, it is generally the Beginning of all Manner of Wickedness. For it is one of the first Sins the Devil tempts Children to; and those that yield to that Temptation, are commonly carried on to further Degrees of Wickedness, till they are brought to Destruction, both of Soul and Body. And therefore all of us that desire to be Children of God, and Disciples of the Holy *Jesus*, must be strictly careful to speak the Truth at all Times and upon all Occasions. For *Lying* makes us like the Devil; and if we are like him in his Works, we shall be in great Danger of sharing his Torments.

Quest.

Quest. Besides the Guilt and Danger of *Lying*, is it not also of a most odious and disgraceful Quality?

Answe. There is no Sort of Sin meets with greater Scorn and Reproach; a *Liar* being by all accounted a Title of the greatest Infamy and Shame. And it is observable, this unhappy Fate belongs to *Liars*, that they are generally distrusted even when they do speak Truth. So that if the Fear of God does not restrain us, yet if we have any regard to our own Credit or Reputation in the World, we must on that Account resolve to keep clear of a Fault, which will so effectually sink us in the good Opinion of all wise and good Men.

Quest. Will *Liars* have any Part in the heavenly *Jerusalem*?

Answe.

Ans. No; *Whosoever loveth and maketh a Lie*, will be shut out with *Whoremongers, and Murderers, and Idolaters*, Rev. xxii. 15.

Quest. Where then must they have their Part?

Ans. *All Liars shall have their Part in the Lake that burneth with Fire and Brimstone, which is the second Death*, Rev. xxi. 8. But Christ has promised to him that *overcometh*, He will not blot out his *Name out of the Book of Life*, Rev. iii. 5. And therefore, since we are in so great Danger, and have no Power of ourselves to help ourselves, let us earnestly beg Grace and Assistance from Him, who alone is able to keep us from falling, Jude 24. and we being faithful unto Death, he will give us a *Crown of Life*, Rev. ii. 10.

A PRAYER

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AGAINST

LYING.

O LORD GOD, who dost love Truth, and dost hate a Lie, as plainly diabolical ; instil into our Souls an unalterable Love of Truth, that nothing may tempt us to become Liars, which thy Soul abhors. O Lord, give us Grace ever to speak the Truth ; and let our Hearts and Tongues ever go together. Help us to resist and conquer every evil Inclination within
us,

us, and every Temptation from without. Bless to us, we pray thee, whatsoever good Instructions have at any Time been given us; help us carefully to remember them, and seriously to practise them, that we may be ever growing in Knowledge, in Wisdom, and in Goodness. Guide us by thy Holy Spirit, that we may live to thy Glory, and when we die, may attain everlasting Life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

FINIS.