

# Honesty

*Gene Warr*

I. Introduction.

II. Lying is wrong. (Psalm 51:6; Proverbs 6:16)

III. Forms of dishonesty: slander and deceit. (James 4:17)

IV. We need to be responsible to each other for our honesty. (Proverbs 28:23; Ezekiel 3:20)

IV. The Bible demands a holy honest life. (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14)

A. We know when we do wrong because of our conscience. (Romans 2:14-15)

B. The judgment of our conscience is...

1. Final and unbiased.

2. Irrefutable.

3. Categorical.

4. Individual. (Romans 14:5)

V. Reasons why we are dishonest.

A. Peer pressure. (Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 1:14)

B. Fear of rejection. (Isaiah 65:5)

C. Fear of being judged. (Romans 14:10)

D. The fear of being gossiped about. (Proverbs 18:18)

E. Playing to the wrong audience. (John 5:44)

F. Greed. (1 John 2:15-16)

G. Desire for recognition or fame. (Psalm 75:6-7)

VI. Possible solutions.

A. Make up your mind about some nonnegotiable principles.

B. Develop personal convictions and reprogram your mind.

C. Resist beginning. (Romans 13:14)

D. Be a changed influence.

E. Be a good influence. (Jeremiah 15:19)

F. Stick up, speak out and ask questions.

G. Let people know where you stand.

**Application questions:**

1. What are some ways you are tempted to be dishonest?

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2. How would you exhort someone who struggles with dishonesty?

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3. What are some ways we can guard against being dishonest? Explain.

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