Should Christians Keep Their Word

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When we give our word to someone else that we will do something, do we have to keep our word? **This is a *FAR* greater offense in the Bible than most Christians realize**, and I am convinced this is not being addressed in the grand majority of churches.

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him... a lying tongue... A false witness that speaketh lies...
-Proverbs 6:16-19

First, we need to recognize that God hates *ALL* lies. Just as your color of skin is irrelevant (white/black-Acts 17:26), your color of lie is irrelevant (white/black). We may think we are justified in telling certain lies, but God's Word condemns all lies.
(Read "Did God Justify Lies?" here at creationliberty.com for more details.)

But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.
-Matthew 5:37

For example, **contracts are evil according to God's Word**. If you give your word you will do something, but you have to sign a contract to make sure you keep your word, that is evil. I understand contracts are a part of our wicked society today, and it's almost impossible to avoid them, but it's because we have abandoned the Bible and can no longer be trusted to do what we say we will do, as God commands. A contract seeks the government for aid in making sure we keep our word, instead of fearing the Lord God and keeping His commandments.

Our country has fallen into a nation of contracts and lawyers due to a lack of attention to the Scriptures I have quoted here. Ask your grandparents: Decades ago, your word and a handshake were all that was required. No contracts. No lawyers. However, as America strays from the Word of God and liberty anchored in our Lord Jesus Christ, and we forget the importance of our word, we no longer speak the language of the Bible, but now we must be ruled and enslaved by men and money. Our agreement to do something in America has to be bound by signed contract and law because we cannot be trusted to keep our word as God has commanded us and shown us by His example.

Let your 'yes', be yes. Let your 'no', be no. If your 'yes' to someone turns out to be a no, when you already told them 'yes', that is *EVIL*. If your 'no' to someone turns out to be a yes, when you already told them 'no', that is *EVIL*.
If you tell someone, "I am going to do this," and you don't do it, you *LIED*! That makes you a *LIAR*. We have all done this to someone else, and others have done this to us.

From personal experience, I have traveled and spoken to Christian churches in multiple states, and most of the time we have a handful of Christians come up afterwards and give us their word they are going to volunteer, donate, etc, but only a tiny percentage of them have done what they said they would do. There is no sugar-coated way around it: They *LIED* in front of God and everyone else.

In the book of Acts, God judged those who lied to give themselves a benevolent social status. A man named Ananias, and his wife Sapphira, sold some property, kept part of the money, and gave another portion of the money to the Church of Christ. This was perfectly fine for them to do, but they *LIED* about it and said they gave everything to the Church of Christ.

Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.
-Acts 5:3-5

God is not joking around with this subject. **Our Lord God *HATES* lies.**

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God:
-Ecclesiastes 5:2

Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?
-Ecclesiastes 5:5-6

A common excuse: "Well, I didn't say 'I promise I'll do it'..." Did you know Jesus Christ never said those words either? He let his 'yea', be yea.

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.
-Matthew 18:11

He said He was going to Save the lost, and He did so. He didn't have to "promise" anyone anything. He simply did what He said He was going to do. And yet, when God says He is going to do something, it is *STILL* called a promise:

Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore?
-Psalm 77:8

If you tell a child 'no', and the child cries, and you give into that crying and give them a 'yes'--you *LIED*! That makes you a *LIAR*. That is *EVIL* according to the Bible. As a parent, your child belongs to the Lord, but He has temporarily trusted that child in your care to raise up a Godly seed. Your child gets the impression of God by your actions, and if you allow your 'yes' and 'no' to be bartered, the child will get the impression that the Lord allows His 'yea' and 'nay' to be bartered.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
-Proverbs 22:6

As a sinner Saved by Jesus Christ, I try my best not to be too harsh on one sin, without remembering my own (what evil befalls me is only reaping what evil I have sown in my life -- Gal 6:7), but this topic has gone unheard long enough. When I was a child, my mother repeatedly taught me the most valuable lesson of my life, "You have nothing of value on this earth besides your word." She spoke those words to me many times as I was growing up. Today, I am extremely careful about what I tell someone I am going to do, and my wife and I both struggle and fight to keep our word no matter what obstacles we face, just as our Heavenly Father does for us, and if everyone did the same thing, we would have no need of lawyers or contracts in this nation.

Countless times, my wife and I have been hurt by our fellow Christians who have taken no consideration of the things they have told us. We have taken great pains and effort to keep our word to them, and have gone out of our way in prepartion for them to keep their word to us, but when the time came, and our hard work and money were poured into what they told us they would do, we would find out they don't even remember telling us they made us a promise, and most of the time, they don't even care. How is it we expect to be able to study and understand God's Word, and to do that which He has called us to do, when we can't even do the simple things we tell one another we will do?

A lying tongue hateth [those that are] afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.
-Proverbs 26:28

This verse says that if we lie, we hate the person affected by our lie. It does not matter what we say we feel, or the excuses we make for ourselves, this verse is very clear that if we lie, we hate the person affected by the lie. Let's look at what Jesus Christ said about hate:

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
-1 John 3:15

The average Christian doesn't catch it, but when you connect the dots, God tells us that **if you don't keep your word, that is the same as murder**! Christians are up in arms and seriousness if one of their congregation was murdered in the street, but lies are told repeatedly in their own sanctuary, and no one bats an eyelash over it. God takes this *VERY* seriously, but I am convinced that lies and keeping our word has become one of the most overlooked and ignored sins in today's American churchianity.

I expect the unbeliever to keep his word just as much as I expect the Christian to do so, but that is to say I expect the unbeliever not to murder me and my family as much as I expect the Christian not to murder me and my family. The point is that we *ALL* expect *FAR* more out of the saved Christians than we do out of the unbelievers because of our love and fear for the Lord God, but the line between the secular world and the Church of Christ is getting very hard to see.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.
-Proverbs 18:21

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.
-Matthew 12:36

Look inward: Do you take caution about every word you say? Are you keeping your word? When you tell someone you will do something, how seriously do you take it? Do you always do what you say you're going to do with the upmost seriousness and standards that God has put on the truth?

- "*I forgot about it*..." -- Did you give your word?
- "*But I had something come up*..." -- Did you give your word?
- "*They took care of it on their own*..." -- Did you give your word?
- "*I forgot I said it*..." -- Did you give your word?
- "*We just didn't have time*..." -- Did you give your word?

Does the Lord Jesus Christ make these excuses with us?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.
-Matthew 5:48

Though we as Christians are quick to condemn adultery, homosexuality, theft, murder, etc... we seem to gloss over our lies. With so many Christians breaking their word, it's no wonder the secular world looks on us as hypocrites.

Let's start looking inward and next time, before we tell someone we are going to do something, let's carefully consider God's Word, and be not rash with our mouths. Keeping our word should be as important us as the Ten Commandments, because through keeping our word, we keep His Word, and the love of God is perfected.

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.
-1 John 2:5