

A Contest of Lies

Commentary for August 13, 2007 — Who Is a Bigger Liar?

It is understood that Satan is a liar. This is clearly indicated by Jesus when He was speaking to Jews who **"believed on him"** (John 8: 30–31, particularly verse 44 below).

Yet several of those same people who **"believed on him,"** a few moments later desired to kill Him (John 8: 37). Why? It was because He did not meet their expectation of what the Messiah should do or be as a leader. Even so, Jesus acknowledged that they were Abraham's descendants (John 8: 37, 39). Then to those who desired to kill Him He said:

"You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

• *John 8:44*

Jesus told us the source of evil in man:

"For from within, out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man ..."

• *Matthew 15:19¹*

Who Is a Bigger Liar?

Satan is the devil, the serpent in Eden, the dragon (Revelation 12: 9, 20: 2). As the father of lies, the originator of the first lie, the devil would be expected to be the greatest of liars. He is not.²

You are.

I am. We all are. All human beings are greater liars than Satan. How can I say that? Without being clever, I say that because God says so. God says you are the greatest liar, as is each human being:

"The heart is deceitful [crooked] above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

• *Jeremiah 17:9*

Let us examine this verse. The word **"deceitful"** is better translated as "crooked" which is more in line with the Hebrew. In other words your human heart is created by God Himself to be "crooked" and wicked. In fact, it is not just wicked; it is **"desperately wicked."**³

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1. See also Mark 7:21–22, and Matthew 15:8, quoting Isaiah 29:13.
 2. There are many faulty assumptions that people make about Satan: what he is like, what is his role in God's plan, how does he influence us, and what does he do? See Dr. Martin's presentation "[Assumptions about Satan.](#)"
 3. This Hebrew word *'aqob* occurs three times in the Old Testament. Once is in Jeremiah 17:9. In Isaiah 40:4 the same Hebrew word is translated **"crooked."** In Hosea 6:8 the word is translated **"polluted."**

Look at the King James Version. Most editions show that the word "things" is in italics. This means that the word does not appear in Hebrew. This is indeed the case. This means that the heart (this includes your heart) is not merely "**deceitful above all things**" but is truly "**deceitful above all**" which includes everyone and everything. This tells me that your heart is even more deceitful than Satan himself, the father of lies (John 8:44 above).

Eliphaz told Job and his other friends (truthfully this time) that mankind is even worse than those in the heavens, worse even than the evil beings in heaven:

"Behold, he puts no trust in his saints [holy ones]; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinks iniquity like water?"

• *Job 15:15–16*

In Ecclesiastes 9:3 Solomon said: "**the heart of the sons of men is full of evil.**" It is probably because of this fact that Solomon said "**He that trusts in his own heart is a fool**" (Proverbs 28:26). This is because of the evil inherent in the human heart.

Knowing our Hearts

Back to the question posed in Jeremiah 17:9 about the "**desperately wicked**" human heart: "**Who can know it?**" The deceitfulness of the human heart is beyond the ability of human beings to understand, much less explain. This is because everyone suffers from the same malady. This is what YHWH told Noah: "**the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth**" (Genesis 8:21). Furthermore, our own deceitful heart does not allow us to acknowledge our own deceitfulness. Our hearts even lie to us! Such is the depth of human depravity.⁴

Fortunately God can know our hearts. In fact only God can know it (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:21–22). Look at the very next verse 10:

"I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

• *Jeremiah 17:10*

You are a nice person I'm sure, but this is God's opinion of the thoughts of your heart, not mine. God "**knows the secrets of the heart**" (Psalm 44:21). God says your heart is deceitful, crooked, lying. His opinion counts. No other opinion counts. "**The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are vanity**" (Psalm 94:11).

A Good Question

Naturally a question comes to mind. Why did God make us all this way? The apostle Paul explains. From much sin, grace abounds:

"For as by one man's disobedience [the disobedience of Adam] many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Christ] shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin has reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

• *Romans 5:19–6:2*

You are the biggest liar. However, God's grace works through Christ to save each of us.

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com

4. Even religious leaders lie. Even Christian leaders lie "for the good of the people." See my presentation (based on Dr. Martin's research) "[The Pagan Immortal Soul and 'Double Doctrine'](#)."