

CHAPLAINS' CORNER
By East Bay Raceway Park Chaplains
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Sixth in the series:

Life is God's Gift to You-
WHAT YOU DO WITH IT IS YOUR GIFT TO GOD

HONESTY REMAINS THE BEST POLICY

It's normal for people to shade their explanations and excuses to their benefit. We've developed a whole vocabulary of euphemisms for our departures from honesty. One 'stretches the truth' while another covers unpleasantness with 'a little white lie'. Maybe it's just your *interpretation* or merely an *exaggeration* or even your *imagination* running away with itself. But, however we justify straying from truthfulness, it's still dishonest.

When I was racing, I had a problem with rulebooks. I read the rule understanding full well what was intended. Then I would pick it apart until I could interpret it to my advantage. I lied to myself to get away with something. Looking back, I know I cheated at times. Honest living isn't easy. But, at least you won't be ashamed later...Natz

Honesty is essential to all relationships--and especially to a strong marriage. The Bible actually promises that **"you may be sure that your sin will find you out"** [Numbers 32:23]. The truth is going to come out eventually. Have you ever watched a liar squirm when confronted with the facts? Even if you are only caught telling one small fib the distrust lasts a long time. Others rightly reason that those who would lie over such a small matter will surely tell a whooper when pressed. Why *should* your spouse trust you again after you have been caught in a lie? So, **"Don't tell lies to each other; it was your old life with all its wickedness that did that sort of thing"** [Colossians 3:9]. Make honesty your daily practice. If you make it a point to stick to the truth in every word you utter, it will be easier to present the plain facts when it really matters.

Give God the gift of an honest, truthful, sincere life. Here is a good description from the Bible of the disciplined living required to deeply please God: **"He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart, has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong & who keeps his oath even when it hurts"** [Psalm 15:3 & 4]. Wouldn't you love having a friend, business partner, boss, or spouse like that? Who wouldn't! We can't control how others choose to behave, but we can be truthful ourselves, can't we? Even the Bible admits that integrity sometimes hurts. So, get tough, choose to be a *real man* and a *sure-enough lady* by telling the truth all the time.