

**Telling the Truth**  
*Week 1 - Telling the Truth...to Myself*  
May 21, 2006

We lie to ourselves...

***I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are.  
Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves....***

*Romans chapter 12 verse 3 (866)*

- Truth will set you free - John chapter 8
- Satan is the "Father of lies" - John chapter 8

Lie #1 - There's no God, so I'm not accountable to him

***They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth & sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power & divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. ...They traded the truth about God for a lie.***

*Romans chapter 1 verses 19, 20 & 25 (857)*

Lie #2 - I'm O.K., Really!

***Letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life & peace.***

*Romans chapter 8 verse 6 (862)*

How to discover if I'm lying to myself...

- Pray and ask God for courage!  
***"Be courageous!" 1 Corinthians chapter 16 verse 13 (881)***
  
- Ask 2 or 3 people who know you well to point out the destructive areas in your life that you're blind to or that you dismiss as not that important
  
- Believe them! Act on what they say!  
***"A wise person is hungry for knowledge (truth!)...."***  
*Proverbs chapter 15 verse 14 (491)*
  
- Stop making excuses as to why you can't change!  
***"I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength!"***  
*Philippians chapter 4 verse 13 (901)*

*(over)*

### Lie #3 - My Guilt Limits My Potential

The Truth is...

1. ***“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow.”***

*Isaiah chapter 1 verse 18 (517)*

2. ***God said, “I will forgive their wickedness, & I will never again remember their sins.”*** *Jeremiah chapter 31 verse 34 (599)*

3. ***“God has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.”***

*Psalm 103 verse 12 (460)*

4. God says that he throws our sins into the depths of the ocean! See Micah chapter 7 verse 19 (708)

### Lie #4 - Full Devotion to Christ is Not Worth it!

***Jesus said, “Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return....”***

*Matthew chapter 19 verse 29 (750)*

Next Week: Telling the Truth...Everyday

*This study is based on the series “28 Days of Telling the Truth” first taught at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill. Bill Hybels is the Sr. Pastor of this dynamic church that God is using to challenge tens-of-thousands of churches around the world, including Bethel. You can visit Willow Creek at [www.WillowCreek.org](http://www.WillowCreek.org)*