

**NEVER TRUST SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LIE**

Lying is a complex issue. Even St. Jerome wrote about it in a sermon when he addressed Psalm 116:11 in which David says:

“I said in my alarm, ‘Every man is a liar!’”

Well, David was a man; was he lying? And if he was lying then his statement is not true; in that case he was telling the truth. But...well, you get the point. It can get complex.

We are taught as Christians not to lie. But, let's look at a famous insult of Winston Churchill: Lady Astor once confronted the Prime Minister by saying : “Winston, you are drunk; and what's more you are disgustingly drunk.”

Churchill responded: “My dear, you are ugly, and what's more, you are disgustingly ugly. But tomorrow I shall be sober and you will still be disgustingly ugly.”

Churchill was telling the truth and, of course, was being very witty about it. But was his bluntness, or for that matter Lady Astor's bluntness, something to be admired?

I guess we all admire honesty. It was one of the virtues that attracted me to my wife; I always knew what she really felt.

My parents had always drilled into me “Tell the Truth; you can be forgiven for a mistake but lying just makes it much worse.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasizes that the Eighth Commandment forbids us to misrepresent the truth in our relations with others. So, maybe, we are SUPPOSE to say, when it is true: You are ugly.

Hmmm.

And then, I noticed (in Section 2484 of the Catechism ) that “the gravity of a lie is measured against the intentions of the one who lies”

It all comes down to this: are you lying for yourself or are you lying to minimize embarrassment and distress of the other person. If it is the latter, I would call that a virtue not a vice.

By the way I have spoken with our Grand Knight and also Brother Larry and have recommended that although these meditations have been fun, in my opinion we should eliminate them from the Council Meeting as I believe they detract from the overall seriousness of our business and they have agreed....

That really isn't a lie; it was more like an attempt to make a joke.