

January 29, 2023

## Ephesians 4:25

by Ken Weliever

A recent New York Times article revealed that New York Republican Representative-elect George Santos lied about several aspects of his résumé.

Among them, Santos stated that he graduated from Baruch College, although he never even attended Baruch. In fact, he holds no college degree. His work résumé listed Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, although he was never employed by either company.

Furthermore Santos lied about his Jewish heritage.. He claimed to be a “proud American Jew” which he now has clarified that he is “Jew-ish,” rather than Jewish. As a result The Republican Jewish Coalition has banned him from attending future RJC events.

Maybe the most egregious was lying about his marital status. He was once married to a woman. But now he’s married to a man.

In a recent apology for these misrepresentations, Santos referred to them as “embellishing my résumé”

In a interview with Tulsi Gabbard on Fox News, Santos was pressed on his lack of integrity he admitted “I made a mistake.” When she asked whether people could trust him in the future, Santos sought to justify his “mistake” saying, “Tulsi, I can say the same about the Democrats and the party. Look at

Joe Biden. Joe Biden’s been lying to the American people for forty years and he’s the president of the United States. Democrats resoundingly support him.”

Our passage today is a simple, single verse. “Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.”

Our culture rationalizes lying by saying everybody lies. “Sure, I didn’t tell the truth, but the other guy lies too.”

Consider the many euphemistic expressions we use to soften a lie.

- Embellishing.
- Half-truth.
- Pulling a fast one.
- Polite prevarication.
- Inventing facts.
- Disingenuous.
- Slightly dishonest.
- Exaggerating.
- Duplicitous.
- Bamboozling someone.
- Misstating.
- Misleading.
- Distorting facts.
- Being economical with the truth.

All of these and others can be expressed in one simple word—lie.

In their book *The Day America Told the Truth*, published over 30 years ago James Patterson and Peter Kim wrote

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

## Important Dates

**Our Gospel Meeting** with Bubba Garner - April 2-5

**Gospel Meeting** - Killeen, each Friday through Feb 3

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

that 91% of those interviewed said they lie regularly — both at work and in their personal lives. Their investigation also offered these alarming statistics.

- 86% lie to their parents
- 75% lie to their best friends
- 73% lie to their siblings
- 69% lie to their spouses
- 50% feel free to call in sick to work when they are perfectly well

I doubt that those numbers have improved substantially, if at all, in recent years. Several years ago, the late Dee Bowman wrote an article, The Problem of Lying. In it he made this assertion. “I believe (lying) to be one of the most prevalent and damaging problems in the lives of not only the world, but Christians as well. It has become epidemic.”

God’s people, however, are called to a higher standard. Our lives are to be controlled by truth. Because we belong to one another in Christ, we are to put off deceptive works of darkness.

Too often we lie to cover up something embarrassing. Maybe it’s motivated by self-aggrandizement. Or spoken out of fear. Sometimes we lie to shirk personal responsibility. Or like Santos, we may lie for personal gain and professional advancement. Regardless, a lie is a lie. And it’s sinful.

Lies create conflict. Raise suspicion. Destroy trust. Erode relationships. Diminish reputations. Wrong others. And can alienate you from God.

Let us not white-wash, minimize, or excuse lies. And remember that none of us are immune from this subtle, insidious sin.

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## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

**Randall Vanaman** is having difficulties with his feet.

**Doug Adair** is preparing to have surgery on his back.

**Robert and Cathy Moore** are home from Mexico.

*If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.*

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
**(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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