

Does refusing to lie to protect someone's life and telling the truth follow the definition of betrayal?

Rahab the harlot lied to assist the children of Israel (Jos 2:4-7). While God never condones lying, she is cited as an example of righteous faith (Jas 2:25). Lying is not in keeping with God's law (1 Jn 2:4). It is the devil's nature to lie (Jn 8:44).

Men come *as they are* to the Lord to be justified in the faith. The Holy Spirit then works to sanctify them into Christlikeness. When one becomes a Christian, he is to stop: lying, cheating or stealing (Eph 4:28). The Holy Spirit enables him to live rightly (1 Pe 1:2).

All that God does leads to live and abundant living (Jn 10:10). He expects his followers to promote his way because it is the best way (Jn 14:6, Mk 16:15). Men are not to do evil that good may come of it (Ro 3:8). Life should be protected because men are made in God's image (Ge 9:6).

A Christian does not murder; rather, he dies to self (1 Co 15:31). A believer should not love his life so much that he places his priorities over God's (Re 12:11). He may be called upon to give his life for the cause of Christ and be martyred (Mt 16:24, 25, Ac 21:13).

Christians must do what is right and risk the consequences. In a Christ-rejecting world (1 Thess 2:15; Re 12:13), that might mean imprisonment or death. If a believer is persecuted, he can rejoice (Mt 5:12) knowing that he glories God (1 Pe 4:16).

Believers should be loyal to: people (Ac 25:7–11), relatives (Esth 2:21–23), king/leader (1 Sa 24:6–10) or a right cause (2 Sa 11:9–11).¹ Love covers multitude of sins (1 Pe 4:8). Should there arise a conflict between God and man; Christians must obey God rather than man (Ac 5:29). The Holy Spirit gives discernment about how to proceed (1 Co 2:10–16; 1 Jn 4:1–6).

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 389). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.