

My parents are non-believers of Christianity. My mom allows me to go church but my dad doesn't. So every Saturday I had to lie to my dad to go church (he doesn't know that I go to church. He disapproves of it. Is it a sin to do that?

Children should honor (Ex 20:12) and obey (Eph 6:1) their parents in the Lord; but, where their parents disobey or dishonor God, they should not be followed.

Jesus said:

For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Mt 10:35–37

A believer must be true to Jesus before all earthly relationships.

It can be difficult for Christians to witness to their own family members. Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house (Mk 6:4-5)."

Unbelieving parents may not listen to a son or daughter that they raised believing themselves to be wiser. The apostle Paul said to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity (1 Ti 4:12)."

God said, "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: If then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear?" Mal 1:6. God was a Father to the nation Israel and He is a Father today to those who trust in him today (1 Jn 3:1). He should be honored and feared before earthly fathers (Ac 5:29).

God never condones lying in the scriptures; rather, he encourages boldness in the faith. Boldness comes from: righteousness (Pr 28:1), prayer (Eph 6:18, 19), fearless preaching (Ac 9:26–29), Christ (Eph 3:11, 12; Phil 1:20), testimony (Phil 1:14), communion with God (Heb 4:16) and perfect love (1 Jn 4:17).¹

A believer has no reason to be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile (Ro 1:16)."

Jesus said, "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels (Mk 8:38)."

Though a Christian may be persecuted for his love for Jesus (Jn 15:18) and desire to live godly (2 Ti 3:12), he can rest assured that he is gaining eternal rewards as he attempts to glorify the Lord. Paul said, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2 Co 4:17.

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 109). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Adrian Rogers said, "Salvation is free but discipleship² costs....When you follow Jesus, he's not inviting you to share in his popularity--but his unpopularity."³

Believers can pray for family members and ask other Christians to pray for them, as well. One can pray *toward* the end instead of *for* the end (e.g. instead of praying for one's unsaved family member to be saved *today*; He can pray for signs that his heart is softening).

² Discipleship—adherence to a teacher's faith. Tests of: obedience (John 14:15), faithfulness (John 15:8), perseverance (John 8:31), love (John 13:35), humility (Matt. 10:24, 25), surrender of all (Luke 14:26, 33), bearing the cross (Matt. 16:25). Rewards of: acknowledged by Christ (Matt. 12:49, 50), enlightened by Christ (John 8:12), guided by the Spirit (John 16:13), honored by the Father (John 12:26). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 179). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

³ Rogers, Adrian *How to be a Fully Committed Disciple of Jesus Christ*. Love Worth Finding. 20 Jun 17: <http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/love-worth-finding/listen//how-to-be-a-fully-committed-disciple-of-jesus-christ-598723.html>