

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Jessica

OFFERING: Wunmi

WORD: Pastor

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.

Psalm 101:7 (ESV)

GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

To build a church that is **growing, healthy and full of love**, do you have comments, ideas or suggestions? If so, please talk to the Pastor or a minister.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you could join most of our services online when **you are unable to attend?** Talk to the technical team or the Pastor to find out how.

**When it comes to our mistakes,
we are very good lawyers.
When it comes to others' mistakes
we are very good judges.**

- anonymous

Source(s): <https://amatopia.wordpress.com/2016/09/07/world-of-illusions-5-lies-we-tell-ourselves-and-what-to-do-about-them/>



Sunday 28 June 2020

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village
Limeharbour, London E14 9TS
PHONE: 07889906677 || EMAIL:
admin@rccgbethel.church
WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



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Our main service occurs every Sunday effective from 15 March 2020 until further notice; from 10:00 to 12:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London. We may hold other meetings during the week. Links to these will be sent out to members or posted on our website.

When it is time for service(s), please join our Webex platform as follows:

If joining online, copy and paste the meeting link below into your browser:

<https://rccgbethel.my.webex.com/webappng/sites/rccgbethel.my/meeting/download/7c2a148a6a6f4c678d2cad460a7d36f3?siteurl=rccgbethel.my&MTID=ma34d26296c523f45b7c8ce7e2bc5324c>

The link should take you directly to the meeting, but if necessary, use the following details.

Meeting number (access code): 145 480 919

Meeting password: BethelDR

Joining by phone

Tap to call in from a mobile device

+44-20-3478-5289 United Kingdom Toll

Global call-in numbers

Join from a video system or application

Dial 145480919@rccgbethel.my.webex.com

You can also dial 62.109.219.4 and enter your meeting number.

Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial 145480919.rccgbethel.my@lync.webex.com

There's no need to register or sign in. Once on the meeting page, you should see a green button with the prompt **Join meeting**. If the meeting is running, you will be asked to wait. If not, you may see something like **"Meeting has not started"** or a similar message.

If you need help, please contact the Pastor on **07889906677**.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The lies we tell

Text: Ephesians 4:20-26; 28-32

Christianity is a learned behaviour. Reading this text, I first wondered if he was speaking to Christians because the behaviours he was talking about should ideally not be spoken about among Christians. In Ephesians 4:25, he said we should stop telling lies to each other and I think that's really key, because every wrong action or step we take is usually underpinned by lies. We first have to convince ourselves that it is justified.

So, the most dangerous lies are the ones we tell ourselves to justify our behavior. There's a saying that **"Humans deceive themselves in order to deceive others and thus have an advantage on them."** The parable of the tax collector illustrates this (Luke 18:9-14).

St Augustine believed lying was wrong, but he accepted **"this would be very difficult to live up to"** because **"in real life people needed a get-out clause"**. He grouped lies into 8 classes, depending on how difficult it was to pardon them, the least forgivable listed first.

Lies (1) told in teaching religion (2) which hurt someone and help nobody (3) which hurt someone but benefit someone else (4) told for the pleasure of deceiving someone (5) told to please others in conversation (6) which hurt nobody and benefit someone (7) which hurt nobody and benefit someone by keeping open the possibility of their repentance (8) which hurt nobody and protect a person from physical 'defilement'.

Thomas Aquinas believed there are hierarchies of lies. Malicious lies told to do harm are mortal sins while 'Jocose lies' told in fun or 'officious' / helpful lies are pardonable.

The criminal justice system often tries to find underlying causes of offences with the aim to stop repeat offenders. Most often than not, the reports usually points to some form of justification. Many of us will probably not commit a murder, but we might not count other things we consider lower in the scale a big deal and we justify them. That's what the scripture calls our sinful nature; the nature that accepts that sin is okay.

Let's look at the story of Joseph. We might think him arrogant among other things, but we can see how he refused to justify sleeping with Potiphar's wife even under constant pressure (Gen 39:6-7). He told himself the truth. Contrast with David who gave himself permission to take another man's wife until he was confronted with the truth. Then he repented (2 Sam 11:1-27; 12:1-25). Being honest with ourselves takes grace and humility. It also takes understanding our nature of sin and our susceptibility (Eph 5:1-20).

College admissions often issue 'unconditional offer' letters. The truth is nothing is unconditional except the love of God. We're asked not to grieve the Holy Spirit because he's the one guaranteeing our salvation (Eph 4:30). So, to answer the question about whether we can live without sin, we need to first ask ourselves if we can live in truth and stop justifying lies. Can we act on the truth rather than the lie in all situations?

Bottom line:

We're asked to speak the truth to each other in love (Eph 4:25). Let's stop telling ourselves lies to justify wrong actions and our sins. We must confront ourselves in every situation and reject lies like Joseph did. We must stand for the truth and choose to live in that truth.

* Download copies of Sunday bulletins from here: <http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>

RCCG Bethel Parish
Pillar of truth ... defining the future today