



**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”**  
**2 Peter 1:21**



**CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1017 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (Old Hwy. 367)  
 Cabot, AR 72023  
[cabotwestsidechurchofchrist.com](http://cabotwestsidechurchofchrist.com)  
[facebook.com/cabotwestside](https://facebook.com/cabotwestside)

**When We Meet**

Sunday  
 Bible Classes – 9:00 am  
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm  
Wednesday  
 Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

**Our Elders**

R.D. Hopper  
 Norman Kemper

**Our Deacons**

Troy Hunter  
 Kelly Kendall  
 Tony Ramick

**Our Preacher**

Alex Hale

**What a Tangled Web We Weave...**  
 By Alex Hale

A story is told about a preacher who noticed a group of boys standing around a small stray dog. When the preacher asked them what they were doing, one of the boys replied, “We’re telling lies. Whoever tells the biggest lie gets to keep this dog.” The preacher was shocked and said to them, “Boys, when I was your age, I would have never thought of telling a lie.” The boys looked at each other, and finally one of them said, “Well, I guess he wins the dog.”

Tragically, in our culture dishonesty is a skill that is often admired. The world tells us that, not only is lying acceptable, it is even *necessary* to make it through life. Lying is often reclassified into an art form known as “spin.” We expect lawyers, journalists, talk-show hosts, politicians, and just about anyone else in the public eye to “spin” the truth if it will serve their purpose. In fact, if a politician can successfully “spin” a version of the truth to either soothe listeners or deceive them, he or she is considered to be an exceptionally good politician – someone worth looking up to – a “real leader.”

Politicians lie to get votes. Historians lie by reshaping historical events to fit their views. Advertisers lie to sell their products. A *New York Times* article titled, “What a tangled web we weave; we ALL practice to deceive,” stated that 91% of Americans confess to regularly not telling the truth. The article went on to say that 20% of Americans admitted that they cannot make it through a day without telling conscious, premeditated lies. The report suggests that “...as a society, we have moved very far away from the age when a man’s word was his bond ... to a society in which people are more accepting than ever before of exaggerations, falsifications, fabrications, misstatements, misrepresentations, gloss-overs, quibbles, concoctions, equivocations, shuffles, prevarications, trims, and truth colored and varnished.” We can relate to the words of David, who wrote, “*Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases! From the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart they speak*” (Psa 12:1-2).

With lying often accepted as the norm, many have forgotten exactly what a lie is. Webster defines a lie as “a false statement made with intent to deceive.” Lies can take many shapes:

- **The silent lie** (Prov 6:12-13). You can spread falsehood without opening your mouth with the use of a lifted eyebrow or shrug of the shoulders intended to give a false impression. You can also bear false witness by silently listening to people say wrong things about another person and not coming to that person’s defense. By not saying or doing anything, you are validating a falsehood.
- **Flattery** (Prov 26:28; Psa 55:21). This is the act of giving insincere praise with an ulterior motive, most likely one’s own benefit. As hearers, we must be careful with this also. We may love to be complimented, but we must remember that flattery is like perfume – we can smell it, but we should not swallow it.
- **Truth used improperly** (Jn 8:39-44). In saying, “*We were not born of fornication,*” the Jewish leaders were implying that Jesus *was* born of fornication – that He was the illegitimate son of Mary and not the Son of God. There once was a sailor who held a deep grudge against his captain. One day the captain was sick and this sailor was in temporary command. It was the duty of the commanding officer to record the daily entry into the ship’s log. The sailor wrote, “The captain was sober today,” which was the truth. In reality, the captain was sober every day. However, what the sailor wrote in the log that day was a selective truth, written with the intent of hurting the captain’s reputation. His intent was to deceive people into thinking that the captain had a drinking problem!