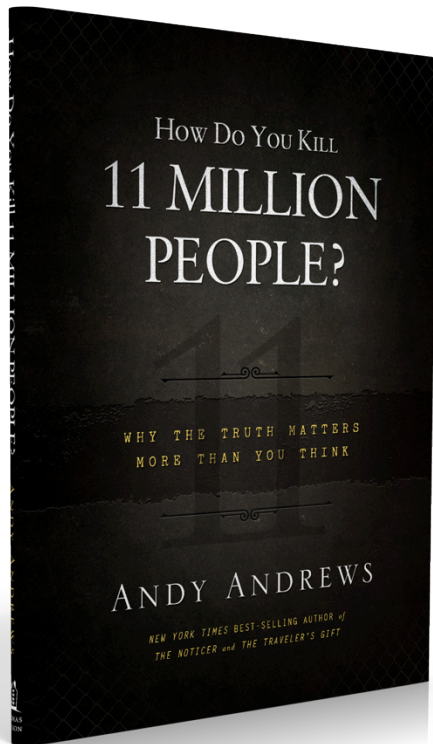


# How Do You Kill 11 Million People?

*by Andy Andrews*



## Sermon Series - 2 Truth & Lies

“You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the Lord.”

- Leviticus 19:11-12, NASB

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.”

- John 8:44-45, NASB

We have grown dull in our perception of truth and our sensitivity to truth. The persuasiveness of speakers, the cultural insistence that truth is relative, the repetition of lies large and small, and the reality of truth with its sobering implications combine to desensitize us to the value and necessity of truth.

If there are no moral absolutes then the discussion of truth versus lies is unnecessary. But there are absolutes and the discussion is urgently important. The highest consequences to our dullness are spiritual in nature, but every dimension of an individual life or a culture at large is impacted by the presence of truth or its opposite, lies.

God is truth, the author of absolute truth, and the most compellingly powerful Advocate of truth we will ever know. Lies violate His character, His law, and His will. We can and must address the reality of lies, at every level, by any person, in all settings.

## I.

**The Character of Lies: A lie is a pretext with the intent to deceive; all lies are fueled by an agenda in the heart / mind of the liar.**

### A. Definitions

1. **A lie is falsehood, untruth, a willful deception, a knowing distortion, an intentional misrepresentation, a partial truth mixed with known falsehood.**

“In plain truth, lying is an accursed vice. We are not men, nor have

any other tie upon one another, but by our word." - Michel Eyquem De Montaigne

**2. To mislead is to cause people to form false opinions or beliefs, either by employing deliberate deception or by supplying incorrect information.**

"A lie does not consist in the indirect position of words, but in the desire and intention, by false speaking, to deceive and injure your neighbor."  
- Jonathan Swift

**3. To deceive is to cause people to believe what is not true; to lead another into error, danger, or a disadvantageous position by underhanded and manipulative means.**

"Lies are sufficient to breed opinion, and opinion brings on substance."  
- Francis Bacon

**4. Half-truth; some truth mixed with falsehood, deception, and distortion.**

"Never forget that a half truth is a whole lie." – Unknown

**B. The Sources of lies**

1. Originally and continually, Satan is the "father of lies," seeking to turn us away from God and truth, to disrupt life, and to ultimately destroy us  
Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11; I Peter 5:8, NASB
2. The human heart in the form of impure motives, selfish agendas, self-protection, a perverse desire for our own way, and the deception of lies we have believed and thus act upon. Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:1-10; Proverbs 12:20; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45; James 4:3, NASB
3. The world; the mindset of the age in which we live and the voices to which we are exposed. John 3:19; I John 1:15-17, NASB

## II.

### The Chaos of Lies

**A. Each lie breaks trust.**

"I'm not upset that you lied to me. I'm upset that from now on I can't believe you. - Friedrich Nietzsche

**B. Each lie hardens the heart.**

"I do myself a greater injury in lying than I do to him of whom I tell a lie." - Michel Eyquem De Montaigne

**C. Each lie erodes relationship with God and with men.**

"Lying is a terrible vice; it testifies that one despises God, but fears man." - Michel Eyquem De Montaigne

**D. Each lie lingers in the hearts and minds of those who hear it.**

"It is easier to gather up a bag of loose feathers than to round up a single lie." - Unknown

## III.

### The Consequences of Lies - Each lie creates consequences for not only individuals but also for societies and perhaps the world. (See *How Do You Kill Eleven Million People?* and the story of the rise of Adolph Hitler.)

"Liars are the cause of all the sins and crimes in the world." – Epictetus

**A. Lives are disrupted and potentially ended. Genesis 37:20; Acts 5:1-11, NASB**

**B. Good and true ideas / contributions / causes are thwarted.**

"People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war, or before an election." - Otto Von Bismarck

**C. Governments are corrupted. The Book of Esther; Daniel 3 and 6, NASB**

"Every violation of truth is not only a sort of suicide in the liar, but is a stab at the health of human society." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

**D. The discipline and wrath of God is invoked. Proverbs 6: 16-19, NASB**

## IV.

### Confronting Lies / Liars – The Book of Esther

"All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing." - Edmund Burke

**A. Requires conscience and conviction: We must believe that truth matters for us and for all.**

“It is impossible to calculate the moral mischief, if I may so express it, that mental lying has produced in society. When a man has so far corrupted and prostituted the chastity of his mind as to subscribe his professional belief to things he does not believe he has prepared himself for the commission of every other crime.” - Thomas Paine

“It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.”

Robert Francis Kennedy

- B. Requires courage: We must be willing to act in the face of consequence and peril. Esther 4:16; I Samuel 17:32; Daniel 3:16-18; NASB**
  
- C. Requires constancy: We must remain ever vigilant to speak the truth ourselves and support truth in others because the “father of lies” continues his work daily. John 8:44-45, NASB**

## Conclusion:

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- Lies violate God’s will for our lives and reflect the influence of Satan, our own darkened hearts, and the world around us.
- Lies create chaos, damaging the hearts and lives of the liar and those to whom he/she lies.
- The consequences of lies are always broader, deeper, and harsher than we may know.
- Believers have a stewardship—as children of the Light—to protect and advance truth and confront lies.

Sermon Content created by Rick and Jan Loy

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