

Telling the Truth

A 12-year-old boy was a key witness in a crucial lawsuit. One of the lawyers had put him through a rigorous cross-examination and had been unable to shake his clear, damaging testimony.

In a stern voice, the lawyer said, "Your father has been telling you how to testify, hasn't he?" the attorney challenged him. "Yes," said the boy.

"Now," declared the lawyer with smug satisfaction, "just tell us what your father told you to say."

"Well," replied the boy, "Father told me that the lawyers may try to tangle me. But if I would just be careful and tell the truth, I could say the same thing every time."

That should be our approach in everything we say. Truth should be the hallmark of every individual, and certainly so for the Christian. We are to be models of honesty in a society marked by falsehood, rationalization and devious attempts to avoid telling the truth.

Honesty is more than the best policy; it should be the only policy. Truth does not need defenders so much as it needs witnesses.

--Beecher Hunter