

Open your Bibles to Exodus 1:15-21.

- We're continuing our study of the book of Exodus.
- This morning we are returning to vv15-21.
- Why? Because I'd like to address the Lie of the Midwives.

In this passage, the Hebrew midwives are summoned by Pharaoh to give an account for why they have not killed the Hebrew baby boys.

- And in v19 they say, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."
- Now, many think that here the midwives lied to Pharaoh. (More on that later.)
- The text then goes on to show us that God blessed the midwives.
- And this makes many ask an important question: Did God bless the midwives for lying?
- And, if so, does this mean that sometimes it's OK for us to lie?

I want to address those questions this morning.

- I think they're worth addressing for two reasons:
 - 1.** Almost everyone asks these questions when they read this passage.
 - 2.** Your answer to these questions will have an effect on how you view the Law of God and how you practically live your life. And if the Christian life is to be lived in the fear of God and obedience to Him, then this is very important.

So I want to address this difficulty in the text today.

- If the midwives lied, and I think the text shows that they did, does that mean that God blessed their lying?
- I'll let the cat out of the bag: The answer is NO.
- God did not bless them for lying. He blessed them because they FEARED HIM, even though they also sinned against Him and lied.

I think this text reveals something glorious about our God...something we need to hear:

- Our God is superabundantly gracious to His People.
- By the end of this sermon, I hope to help you see that God blesses weak and sinful believers who imperfectly but sincerely fear Him.
- I want us to see the grace of God for us today, not so we would feel like we can sin, but so we would glory in His kindness and grace toward us when we sin.
- I want us to see the grace of God for us in Christ.
- May He bless the preaching of His Word and grant us grace to see.

If you would, and are able, please stand with me now for the reading of the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.

Exodus 1:15-21

[15] Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

[16] “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew

women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.”

[17] But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.

[18] So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?”

[19] The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.”

[20] So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong.

[21] And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

(PRAY)

Our Heavenly Father,

•Thank you for another opportunity to sit under the ministry of your Word.

•We ask now that you would bless us and give us grace to understand, believe, love, and obey whatever it is that you have to say to us today.

•Teach us your holy Law. Show us your righteous rules.

•And show us the mercy and grace you have for those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

•Show us how you love and are gracious toward your children.

•Sanctify us in the truth. Your Word is truth.

- *We ask these things in Jesus' Name and for His sake.*
- *Amen.*

1.) As we saw last week, this text contains one of the darkest plots in all of Scripture.

- Pharaoh, in his desire to decrease the population of Israelites in Egypt, devised a wicked plan.
- He tried slavery. But, as v12 tells us, "...the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied."
- God's blessing was upon the descendants of Abraham, as God had promised in the Abrahamic Covenant.
- And so, Pharaoh came up with a new and even worse plan than slavery alone: The murder of babies.

Pharaoh speaks to the midwives and tells them that they are to kill every Hebrew baby boy as soon as he comes out of the womb.

- This was meant to be a secretive act of the midwives. Pharaoh most likely expected them to smother or strangle or do some other thing as the child came out.
- And, in doing so, they were to make it look like the child had been stillborn or had died from complications in the birthing process.
- But, no matter how they were to do it, Pharaoh wants these midwives to murder every Jewish baby boy as soon as he is born.

Why did Pharaoh want to do this?

- Because with no baby boys, you have no men within a couple of generations.

- And with no Hebrew men, there was no possibility of the Israelites waging war against Egypt, joining the enemies of Egypt, or leaving Egypt.

- And with only women left in a generation or two, the Egyptians no doubt would take the Hebrew women for themselves.

- Pharaoh's plan is to eradicate the Jewish population in Egypt.

So, Pharaoh gave the order to the midwives.

- But it was an illegitimate order. He was commanding something that he had no right to command.

- He was commanding them to sin. He was commanding them to murder.

- But no authority, no matter how great, not even a king, has the right to command people to sin.

- Nobody has the right to sin against God.

- So, in issuing this command to the midwives, Pharaoh nullified his own authority in this instance.

- And the midwives, therefore, were not under obligation to obey Pharaoh, but were actually under obligation to God to DISOBEY Pharaoh.

NOTE: When any man commands another person to sin, that man must be resisted.

- We must obey God rather than men.

- We must fear God rather than men.

Now, no doubt, Pharaoh's command came

with the the threat of punishment.

- If they disobeyed his command, no doubt they faced death.
- To disobey a king in those days was a capital offense. Pharaoh was considered a god in Egypt. So to disobey a direct order from him was dangerous.

So these midwives had a choice to make:

- 1.** Obey Pharaoh, murder the babies, and sin against God.
- 2.** Obey God, disobey Pharaoh, and face almost certain death.

And v17 tells us what they did:

- “But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded the, but let the male children live.”
- They feared God and not man. And so, they obeyed God instead of man.
- They feared the judgment of God that might come upon them should they so flagrantly and wickedly break His Law and commit murder.
- And they lived in such awe and reverence of the majesty of God that the thought of sinning against Him was repulsive.
- These women were believers. They believed in the Living God. They looked forward to the Messiah to come. They were members of God’s Covenant.
- And so, they lived in the fear of God, remained faithful to Him above all others, and refused to submit to the command of Pharaoh.

Praise God for their bravery!

- Praise God for their commitment to Him!
- He put His fear in their hearts, that they might not sin against Him.
- He put the love of Him in their hearts, that they might walk in His Law.
- He put reverence for His majesty in their hearts, that they might know that He alone is God, and therefore is to be obeyed above all, no matter what the cost.
- And so, they did not do as Pharaoh commanded.
- I want you to see that these women were true believers. They were God-fearing women.
- Whatever else we learn about them, the text is clear: They really had a sincere love for and devotion to God.
- These women are our sisters in the Lord. They were of like faith with us, though we have more light than they did.

2.) But that is not the end of the story, is it?

- They feared God. But they were eventually called upon by Pharaoh to account for their actions.

NOTE: The Bible is an honest Book, isn't it?

- Disobedience to men can cost us. It seemed as if it was going to cost these midwives.
- The time of reckoning with Pharaoh had arrived.
- Hear me: God is pleased when we live in the fear of Him. But there may be worldly suffering that comes upon us because we obey God instead of men.
- These women knew that they could be killed for disobeying Pharaoh. And now the time has come to

stand before Pharaoh and give an account for disobeying him.

Let's read vv18-18 again:

[18] So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?"

[19] The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

- Pharaoh asks, "Why didn't you do what I said and killed the baby boys?"

- And the women say, "Because the Hebrew women are stronger than Egyptian women and give birth before we can get to them."

- Not to labor the point, but this is the reason they gave to Pharaoh. They said, "BECAUSE..."

- They said that it is BECAUSE the Hebrew women give birth before the midwife can get to them that the male children have lived.

- And here is where a question comes in: Did these women lie to Pharaoh?

Now, whether they lied or not, apparently Pharaoh believed them.

- And that's why they lived on after this exchange.

- And vv20-21 tell us that God dealt well with them, blessed them, and gave them families because they feared Him.

- This brings up the next question: If they lied, did God bless them for their lie? After all, it was after they lied

that God blessed them.

It must be said that many commentators, many of whom I respect highly, believed that they told Pharaoh the truth.

- Among these commentators are giants like Henry, Lightfoot, and Poole.
- They claim that God, in His kind providence, provided them with an excuse before Pharaoh.

But others believe that the midwives lied.

- Among these are Augustine, Calvin, and Turretin.
- I agree with these men. I think that the midwives lied.
- I don't want to be too harsh with our Hebrew sisters. And I don't want to falsely accuse them by accident.
- But I do think that the text shows that they lied.

Before we continue, let me define "lying."

- Many have put it this way: "Lying is the testimony by which a man speaks differently from what he thinks."
- To think one thing and to say another is to lie. That is, to speak what you know is not true.
- And the intention behind the lie doesn't matter, really. You don't have to mean to harm another person with your lie in order for it to truly be a lie.
- To paraphrase Francis Turretin, "The intention to deceive is not always required in a lie, provided there is a will of speaking what is false."
- Thomas Aquinas put it this way, "The nature of a lie is taken from formal falsity...that the person has the WILL of enunciating (speaking) that which is false."
- You just need to speak that which is false and MEAN

TO speak that which is false, and you're lying.

- Allow me to quote Turretin once more: "Two things are always required in a lie: (1) that the enunciation be false, contrary to the truth of a thing; (2) that there be a will of enunciating what is false and so the speech be contrary to the thought."

- To put it in our language: To lie is to willfully speak what you know to be untrue.

Now, let me show you why I think the text demonstrates that the midwives lied to Pharaoh:

1. First, v17 says that "they DID NOT DO as the king of Egypt commanded them, BUT LET the male children live."

- If they "did not do" and "let" them live, I think that means that they had to have had the opportunity to kill the children but refused.

- How can you "LET" someone live, if you never had the opportunity to kill them?

- I can't say that I let someone in Michigan live if I was never in their town to have the opportunity to kill them. The statement would be nonsensical.

- So, v17 seems to say that they had opportunity to kill the children, but chose not to ("did not do") and instead "LET" them live.

- But their answer in v19 makes it sound like they never had the opportunity to kill the children's because the mothers gave birth before the midwife could come.

- That means that they lied. If they had opportunity to murder, but then said that they had no opportunity, then

they lied.

2. Second, if what they said in v19 is completely true, then how can it be said in v17 that they “feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them...”?

- They would’ve had no opportunity to obey or disobey Pharaoh, and so, would’ve had no opportunity to demonstrate the fear of God in this situation.

- I don’t believe you can say that it was because I feared God that I did not rob Walmart if I was never in Walmart to have the opportunity to rob the place.

- I may fear God and because of that would never consider robbing Walmart. But if I’ve never been there, you can’t say that it’s the fear of God that kept me from robbing the store.

- So, again, the fact that it was the fear of God that kept them from obeying Pharaoh seems to demonstrate that they had the opportunity to kill the children.

- But in v19 they claim to have had no opportunity.

- That means that they lied to Pharaoh.

These women intentionally spoke an untruth.

- They gave an excuse that they knew was false.

- They claimed to have no opportunity to kill the baby boys, but they knew that they did have the opportunity but feared God and refused to do so.

3.) And this brings us to a big question: The midwives lied and God blessed them. Does this mean that God approved of their lie?

- Some claim that since God’s blessing on them follows

the account of their lying, that means that God must have approved of what they said to Pharaoh.

- But is that the case?

Some even claim that this passage teaches us that it's OK to lie if it's done in order to preserve life.

- Shiphrah and Puah were lying in order to preserve their own lives and also possibly continue to save the lives of more babies.

- If they told the truth, someone could've taken their place and did as Pharaoh commanded.

- So their lie was justified in that they could live to save more life.

So the question becomes this: Is it ever OK to lie?

- Does God ever count it as morally acceptable or righteous for a person to tell a lie?

- I believe the Word of God is clear on this issue: The answer is "NO." It is never acceptable to lie.

- And I want to argue that from Scripture now before we move on.

Why It's Always A Sin To Lie:

1. Lying is roundly condemned in the Scriptures. There are no exception clauses. The condemnations are universal in their scope.

- Now, sometimes you'll read that God blessed someone who lied. You'll read that a godly person lied. You'll read that God graciously and sovereignly used a

lie told by a human being for His own purposes.

- But you will never read a text that commends someone for lying itself. You will never read someone being praised FOR THE ACT OF LYING.

Let's consider some Scripture that speaks of lying:

Psalm 5:5-6a says, “The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies...”

- The Psalmist says that God hates all who do evil. And among the evil things listed, lying is one of them.

- God hates liars.

- And, specifically, the text says that God will destroy those who speak lies.

- Brothers and sisters, that's a blanket statement.

In Proverbs 6:16-17 we read, “There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a LYING TONGUE, and hands that shed innocent blood...”

- V19 goes on to say, “a false witness who breathes out lies” is also among the list.

- Lying is mentioned TWICE among the things that God hates. Surely, that's not a coincidence.

- God is telling us how much He hates lying and how much He values truth.

Colossians 3:9-10 says, “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being

renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.”

- The Apostle Paul just simply says “Do not lie to one another.” Don’t do it. Don’t lie.

- Why? Because lying belongs to the “old self” or “old man.” Lying belongs to the fleshly person, the sinful self that you have left behind through faith in Christ.

- Lying, then, is not consistent with the new creature in Christ. It’s consistent with the unregenerate sinner, but not for one who is being renewed in the Lord Jesus.

- That’s big. Lying is not fitting for those who are in Christ, but it does fit with someone who is still dead in sin.

We go on further to see where lies come from. In John 8:44, the Lord Jesus says,

- “You are of your father the Devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

- Lies originate from Satan, not God.

- Satan is the father of lies, not God.

- So then, when someone lies, they are imitating the wickedness of the Devil and not the righteousness of God, who cannot lie.

Lastly, we look at Revelation 21:8 and read, “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and ALL LIARS, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

- The Second Death, eternal damnation, is the portion, the reward, the inheritance, for all liars who do not repent and turn to Christ in faith.

This should be enough for us to say that there is no way that God approved of the midwives' lie.

- God must have blessed them for another reason, because God so clearly forbids and hates lies and liars.

2. Second, to say that we may lie in order to save lives is foolish if you try to apply that ethic to other things.

- Hear me: We would agree that we may not violate any of the other Ten Commandments to save lives.

- Nobody would argue that one may murder in order to save lives. (Not all killing is murder.) You are not allowed to kill an innocent person in order to save someone else.

- Nobody would argue that one may worship a false god in order to save lives. Idolatry is never allowed.

- Nobody would argue that one may commit sexual immorality in order to save lives.

- Nobody would argue that it's OK to blaspheme the name of God in order to save lives.

- And the Ninth Commandment that forbids lying, is right alongside the rest of these.

- If we're not allowed to violate the other nine Commandments, then we're not allowed to violate this one, even if we're doing so to save lives.

3. Third, the Scriptures tell us that we are never permitted to do evil in order to do good.

- Romans 3:8 says, “And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.”

- Paul says that the Apostles have NEVER taught that we are allowed to do evil that good may come. That is not a Christian teaching. Those who claim it is are slanderous and will be condemned by God.

- So, we can look at this verse and see that it teaches, “We must not do evil that good may come.”

- But if we are permitted to lie in order to do some kind of good, then we are indeed permitted to do evil so that good may come.

And catch this: It then stands to reason that we would be permitted to commit any sin in order to do good.

- You’d be allowed to steal in order to give to the poor.

- You’d be allowed to commit sexual immorality in order to get a better job so you could then give more money to the church.

- You’d be allowed to commit idolatry in order to rise to power in an Islamic state so you could then try to make their laws easier on Christians.

- Any sin could be justified as long as you had a good end goal in mind.

- But brothers and sisters, the ends do not justify the means, according to our God.

- Good ends must be accomplished by good means.

- We must never do evil that good may come.

4. Lastly, just because holy men and women do something in Scripture, does not mean that they are

always to be imitated.

- Consider this morning's OT reading: Isaac, one of the Patriarchs, lied about his wife.

- Noah got drunk. Abraham lied about his wife. Jacob tricked his brother. Moses committed murder. David committed adultery. Solomon married many women and many of them were unbelievers. Peter denied Christ.

- The saints we read about in Scripture were sinners, too. Just like us.

- Not everything we do is worthy of imitation, even though we are true believers. The same is true for the fallen and sinful men and women we read about in the Bible.

- The midwives are to be commended for fearing God and imitated in it. But they are not to be imitated in their lie.

These women really and truly sinned.

- They may have lied simply to save their own lives.
- Or maybe they lied in order to live so that they could continue to save the lives of Hebrew babies.
- But, no matter what, they lied. And that means that they sinned against God.

Now, there are nuances that can be made with this.

- I don't have time to get into them in this sermon, but I am willing to talk with any of you if you have questions.
- But the point remains: To speak what you know to be untrue is a sin, no matter the reason.
- Now let's get back to the midwives.

3.) We've seen that it's always a sin to lie. God does not do situational ethics.

- His Law says what it says. And these midwives lied to Pharaoh, no matter how good their intentions might have been. They sinned against God.

- But vv20-21 tell us that God blessed them: "So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, He gave them families."

How are we to understand this?

- Answer: God blessed them because they feared Him and refused to murder children. But He did not bless them for lying.

- God distinguished the good from the evil in their actions and blessed them for the good they did, in spite of their sin.

- That's the only real way to harmonize all that we see in Scripture on this subject.

- And this teaches us a some things: Believers are a mixed people. Our best works are mixed with sin. And God still loves us and accept us and our works in and for the sake of Jesus Christ.

These women feared God enough to disobey Pharaoh.

- But they did not fear Him enough to tell Pharaoh to his face what they had done in the fear of God.

- They feared God in the first instance, but not the second.

- But they really did fear God! That's what the text says! They really did love God and desire to walk in His

commandments. They really feared the Lord.

- They just did not do so perfectly.

Brothers and sisters, these women were sinful saints.

- Don't allow their lie to undermine that they really and truly feared God. They did!

- And don't allow their piety to undermine the fact that they really sinned when they lied to Pharaoh.

- We see that both things are true in them at the same time.

- They truly but imperfectly feared the God they loved.

- And so, their good works were tainted with sin.

- It was good that they feared God and did not kill the children. But that good work was tainted when they feared Pharaoh more than God and sinned.

- Again, they feared God truly. They just feared God imperfectly.

Brothers and sisters, these midwives are US, are they not?

- What was true of them is true of every believer.

- We are a mixed people who truly but imperfectly fear God. And the imperfect fear of God is shown in that we still sin.

- But the sincerity of the fear of God is demonstrated in that we attempt obedience and repent when we sin.

- We are all sinful saints. That's not excusing sin. That's just the reality.

- And even our best works are tainted with sin because we do not do them in the perfect fear of the Lord.

- Again, we are mixed people. The new nature wars with

the old, sinful nature.

- There is an irreconcilable war going on within each Christian. And it's a war that we will fight each day until we are sealed in glory.

- Sometimes, even oftentimes, we fail to fear God and fall into sin. But that doesn't mean that we are not true believers and sincerely love and fear God.

Again, the midwives did not perfectly live in the fear of God. But that does not mean that they didn't fear Him at all.

- Just like we love and fear the Lord, but not always like we should. (Our remaining sin is evidence of this.)

- But that doesn't mean that we don't really love Him.

And hear me: All of our works are tainted with sin in some way if we inspect them closely enough.

- You feed a homeless person, but there is a little bit of pride mixed in with self-congratulations.

- You pray and set your needs before the Lord, but there is a tinge of selfishness.

- You strive to obey God, but there is a bit of legalism mixed in.

- You believe God, but your faith is mixed with unbelief at times.

- We are mixed people. We are sinners and saints at the same time. And our works are mixed as well.

But here is some Good News for you this morning:

- God is so gracious that He blesses us and smiles upon us anyway.

- He does not smile upon our sin. But for Christ's sake, because we are in Christ and Christ is perfect and we are accepted by God in Him, God can still smile upon US and count us as His own, even with all our remaining sinfulness.

- PRAISE GOD!

- God does not judge us with strict justice because strict justice has fallen upon Christ in our place!

- Because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ FOR US, God can treat us as His beloved children with whom He is pleased and patient!

Our love for God is mixed. But it is real, nonetheless.

- We trust in Christ. But we do not trust perfectly.

- We love Him. But we do not love perfectly.

- We fear Him. But we do not fear perfectly.

- But hear this: Weakness, imperfection, and sinfulness do not mean that there is no genuine faith, love, and fear of God.

- God has begun a good work in us. The fact that we love, fear, and trust Him at all is evidence that He has caused us to be born again and we are His People.

- Hear me, Christian: Something can really be in you, though it is weak and imperfect in this life.

- And this teaches us to look forward to a day when all is perfected in us when we see Christ face to face and are glorified by His very presence.

Our imperfection and remaining sin and corruption remind us of something else, too:

- It can never be by our own works or merits that we are saved.
- Our works are always mingled with sin because we are still sinful, even though we are believers.
- And so, we can only be made right with God by the perfect merits of Jesus Christ.
- Our works cannot stand in the strict judgment of God. We cannot stand before the strict judgment of God.
- As the Psalmist said, “If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord who could stand?” (130:3)

Brothers and sisters, the works by which we are to be saved must be perfect and unblemished.

- And, praise be to God, such is the perfect righteousness of Christ that has become ours by faith!
- His perfect life of perfect works has been credited to our account.
- His wrath-satisfying death has made atonement for our sins.
- In Him we stand! In Christ alone! It is only by the works of the blessed Lord Jesus that we are saved!

4.) My dear friends, this account in Exodus reminds us that God is more gracious to us than we realize.

- For Christ’s sake, God blesses weak and sinful people who imperfectly but sincerely fear Him.
- And this is the only way that God can bless sinners like us: For Christ’s sake and by His merits.

God can look upon our attempted

obedience and still be pleased because Christ has rendered actual obedience for us.

- Remarking on the midwives, John Calvin said, “Nor is there any contradiction to this in the fact that they are twice praised for their fear of God, and that God is said to have rewarded them; because in His PATERNAL INDULGENCE of His children He still values their good works, as if they were prude, notwithstanding they may be defiled by some mixture of impurity.”

- Catch that: Calvin mentioned God’s “paternal indulgence” of His children.

- This is does not mean that God winks at our sin. Rather, Christ has atoned for our sins and paid for them.

- So then, God does not look the other way at our sin, but because of Christ He can be merciful toward us and accept the good we do IN SPITE OF THE BAD.

- God regards us as children in His House and not criminals in the courtroom.

- And why? Because Christ has stood in the courtroom in our place and suffered divine judgment for our sins.

- As the hymn says, “The slave hath sinned and the Son hath suffered.”

- And because of the suffering Son of God, we are now counted as sons and God has the love of a Father toward us.

- And this love can frown upon the bad, but still smile upon the good, and receive the sinner as a son.

Brothers and sisters, hear that Good News again:

- God condemns our sin. But He still owns and blesses us. And He does for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- This is what happened to the midwives in our text.
- And this is the grace that we live in each day as the People of God.

5.) In closing, let me show you three things to take away from this:

1. We are a mixed People. We constantly have to fight against our sinful desires.

- We are a mixed People. But we are still truly God's People.

- A person can fear God truly but also imperfectly.

- If that were not the case, then would be no true believers in the world.

- So as you see your own sin, hate and repent.

- But do not despair. Because your remaining corruption does mean that you are not really a Christian.

2. We are more sinful than we realize.

- Even the best of our works are tainted with sin.

- We need Jesus Christ more than we know.

- So cling to Him! Rest in Him!

- Strive to live for God with all your might, yes. But know that your righteousness is and **MUST BE** Jesus Christ alone!

3. Be gracious with one another as God is gracious with you.

- Do not be quick to judge another Christian to be a false professor because you see sin in their lives.

- If you saw only the lie of the midwives, you might conclude that they were unbelievers.
- But when you see their whole lives, you would know that they feared and loved the Lord.
- More than that, that they were dearly loved by God.
- Brothers and sisters, be patient and gracious with one another.

Our God is kinder than we'll ever know.

- And He pities us as a Father pities His children.
- As the hymn says, "Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more. Praise the Lord!"
- Amen.