

Accept No Substitutes

Out with the **old**, in with the **new!**

1. How are anger and wrath different? How should we deal with angry people? Why is true “righteous anger” so difficult for people to achieve?
2. What is malice? How does malice in the heart lead to blaspheming others? If blasphemy is “telling the truth (with a design to hurt),” how can we as believers avoid engaging in this sin?
3. What types of speech fit into the “filthy language” category? What are some modern-day examples of words or conversations that have slipped into the “acceptable” category for Christians, yet don’t honor God?

According to Ephesians 5:6 and 7, how should we respond to those who regularly engage in this practice?

4. Is a lie only a total untruth or does it include other things? Why is truth-telling so important to God?

Because we are human, we often tell the truth “with a design to hurt.” We must permeate our truth with _____ so that we can “grow up in all things into Him Who is the head” (Eph. 4:15). How can we do this?

5. As Paul contrasts our old way of life with our new way of life, what process makes this change possible (v. 9,10)?

In what sense have we already died? What effect does this “death” have on our thoughts, words, actions, and relationships?

Colossians 3:8-11 ⁸But now you yourselves are put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him Who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

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Monday

Anger devastates us and those around us. Are you often angry? What has Christ given to help you overcome this sin?

Tuesday

Think of one person you feel ill-will toward right now. Confess this sin to God and seek restoration, if necessary.

Wednesday

Some dirty talk has become acceptable for many Christians. What do you find yourself talking about that really doesn't please God? Will you work on getting that out of your life?

Thursday

How easy is it for you to lie? Will you commit to becoming a truth-teller for Christ?

Friday

Describe when and how you exchanged the old clothes of your old way of life for the righteous robes of Jesus Christ at salvation. If you haven't yet, will you take that life-changing step now?

Saturday

"Search us carefully, O LORD, and help us to face honestly whatever You show us is in our hearts without excusing ourselves or blaming someone else. Give us courage and faith to change what needs to be changed; make us more like Your Son. *Amen.*"
