

Colossians 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Analysis

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds. The command "lie not" (mē pseudesthe, μὴ ψεύδεσθε) uses present imperative with negative particle, prohibiting continuing action: "stop lying." The horizontal orientation ("one to another," eis allēlous, εἰς ἀλλήλους) emphasizes Christian community—believers must maintain truthfulness in church relationships. Truth-telling builds trust; lying destroys fellowship.

Paul provides theological basis: "ye have put off the old man with his deeds" (apekdysamenoi ton palaion anthrōpon syn tais praxesin autou, ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ). Aorist participle indicates completed action: at conversion, believers stripped off the "old man"—former identity characterized by sin. If that identity is gone, its practices (including lying) should be abandoned. Continuing in sin contradicts conversion's reality.

Historical Context

Roman culture stratified by class and power, making deception a survival tool for the powerless and manipulation technique for the powerful. Commercial life involved routine dishonesty; political life featured propaganda and false promises. Christian insistence on absolute truthfulness was both revolutionary and practically challenging, requiring believers to trust God's provision rather than securing advantage through deception.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Where do you still lie or shade truth—white lies, exaggerations, selective honesty, or outright deception?
2. How does remembering you 'put off the old man' at conversion motivate present holiness?
3. What would change in your church community if absolute truthfulness characterized all relationships?

Interlinear Text

μὴ	ψεύδεσθε	εἰς	ἀλλήλους	ἀπεκδυσάμενοι	τὸν
not	Lie	one to another		seeing that ye have put off	
G3361	G5574	G1519	G240	G554	G3588

παλαιὸν	ἄνθρωπον	σὺν	ταῖς	πράξεσιν	αὐτοῦ
the old	man	with		deeds	his
G3820	G444	G4862	G3588	G4234	G846

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 4:25 (Parallel theme): Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:22 (Parallel theme): That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Leviticus 19:11 (Parallel theme): Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

John 8:44 (Parallel theme): Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Zephaniah 3:13 (Parallel theme): The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

Revelation 22:15 (Parallel theme): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Revelation 21:27 (Parallel theme): And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Romans 6:6 (Parallel theme): Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

1 Timothy 1:10 (Parallel theme): For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Revelation 21:8 (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.