



46. Old Life Practices

“But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge,” Colossians 3:8-10.

These verses were written to believers ... to those who had, or should have, laid aside the old self and put on the new self. However, some believers continued in their

evil practices of the old life ... or they turned back to them. Wrath is anger at an intense level. Malice is a desire to make someone suffer. Slander is malice pursued through words in an attempt to damage someone's reputation. Abusive speech is clear in its King James translation ... it's "*filthy communication*". And lying to one another is trying to deceive others with untrue statements.

These sins were a problem in the church Paul was writing to ... and are a problem in some believers' lives today. I've seen these sins in believers and in church leaders. It seems that the world has squeezed too many believers into the evil practices of the old life. I'm not exagger-

ating. Here's a few simple questions. Why are so many Christians so angry? Why do filthy words come out of some Christians' mouths when they're not in church? Why do some Christians sing their commitments to God and to each other on Sunday without meaning their words? Isn't that lying accompanied by music? And why do some say, "I'll pray for you" ... but then don't? Old-self practices are a problem today. You've laid aside the old self. Be sure that you've laid aside its evil practices.

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