

The MYSTERY

Hidden for Ages

Is Now REVEALED

A Study of the Book of Colossians

LESSON 17

This Week's Passage:
Colossians 3:9-11

New International Version (NIV)

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:1

¹ *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

**Day One:
Read Colossians 3:1-11.**

1. What exhortation does Paul give the Colossians in verse 9?

Do not _____ to _____.

Lying

Lying has been a problem since the garden of Eden; it was addressed in the Ten Commandments, was the source of severe discipline in the early Church, and will continue to the end of time. It led to the corruption of mankind and has been the source of untold heartache and brokenness in the world.¹

2. Why is it so important that God's children "not lie to one another"?
Rom. 12:4-5

1 Pet. 2:22; 1 Jn. 2:6

3. Can you think of any other reasons why we should not lie to one another?

Day Two: Read Colossians 3:9–11.

4. Why is lying so offensive to God? (1 Sam. 15:29; 📖* Jn. 1:14)

What else does God say about lying?
Prov. 12:22

Prov. 25:18; 26:18–19

Jn. 8:42–45

Rev. 21:8

Lying is any deviation from the truth - whether it is outright dishonesty, “shading the truth,” exaggeration, giving a false impression, or sharing only selected information with the intent to deceive.

Day Three: Read Colossians 3:9–11.

5. What reason does Paul give for why we should not lie? (vv. 9–10a)
6. What imagery does Paul use here when talking about the old and new self? (vv. 9–10; Zech. 3:3–4)
7. What is true of the “old self?” (v. 9; Eph. 4:22)
8. In what other ways does Paul talk about our “old self?” (Rom. 6:6)

Day Four: Read Colossians 3:9–11.

Paul addresses every part of our being: body, mind, imagination, heart, passions, emotions – and, in today’s passage, our tongues. No part of our lives is exempt from the power of the new life Jesus brings to those who believe.

9. What is true of our “new self”? (v. 10)

Read Ephesians 4:22–25, which is a parallel passage to Colossians 3:9–10. How does this help you understand what it means to be “renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (v. 10; 2 Cor. 3:18)?

10. Read Colossians 3:9–11 in *The Message* printed below to get a fresh perspective on this passage.

Don’t lie to one another. You’re done with that old life. It’s like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you’ve stripped off and put in the fire. Now you’re dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

11. When you read today’s passage, verse 11 seems to come out of nowhere. What connection is there between verse 11 and what Paul has just taught about our “new self”? (v. 11; 1 Cor. 12:12–13)

12. Paul’s list in verse 11 does not reflect the main divisions in our society today. If Paul were writing to us – to 21st-century Americans – what groups might his list include?

Paul knew the almost unbridgeable gulfs that exist between human beings. ...But Paul is convinced of the power of Christ, not to bring people together while remaining just what they were before.... ...[but as a] result of genuine spiritual revolutions in individual lives, where the old nature with all its prejudices and hatreds is put off, and the new nature put on.²

13. What practical impact should Paul's declaration in verse 11 have on God's people? (📖 2 Cor. 5:16–17; Gal. 3:26–28)

Day Five: Read Colossians.

Every interaction provides an opportunity for truth or a temptation to deceive. Jesus must have been sorely tempted to lie numerous times the night before he was crucified. Think of what was at stake with the soldiers in the garden of Gethsemane, at his trial before the religious elders, and in his interview with Pilate.³ On any of these occasions he could have tried to save himself with a lie. His choice instead was to speak the truth and “entrust himself”⁴ to his Father.

Jesus calls us to join him in a life lived in truth and love in our words and actions. Take some time to ask the Lord if there are areas of dishonesty or prejudice that don't line up with your “new self.” As Sam Storms says, “We have already put off the old man but we have not yet grown into a life of consistency with that new identity.”⁵ So ask the Lord to help you grow into your “new self” and be renewed by your ever-increasing understanding of your Creator and Savior, Jesus.

*📖 Indicates verses for further study

¹ Gen. 3:4; Deut. 5:20; Acts 5:1–3; 2 Tim. 3:1–4, 13

² Dick Lucas, *The Message of Colossians & Philemon* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1980), 148.

³ Jn. 18:4–6; Lk. 22:66–71; Jn. 18:33–3

⁴ 1 Pet. 2:23

⁵ Sam Storms, *The Hope of Glory: 100 Daily Meditations on Colossians* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2007), 250.