

*Christ over All:  
Paul's Letter to  
the Colossians*

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“Putting Sin  
to Death,”  
Part 5

Colossians 3:5–11



## COLOSSIANS 3:5–11

“Therefore **consider** the members of your earthly body **as dead** to I  
immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to  
idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come  
upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when  
you were living in them. But now you also, **put** them all **aside**; anger, wrath, II  
malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. **Do not lie** to one III  
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 according to the  
image of the One who created him—a *renewal* in which there is no  
*distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,  
barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.”

## OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS 3:5–11

I. Mortify Your Immoral Habits (vv. 5–7)

II. Discard Your Hateful Expressions (v. 8)

➡ III. Forsake Your Deceitful Speech (vv. 9–11)

PUTTING SIN  
TO DEATH

- In Colossians 3:5–17, Paul draws out the moral implications of our **union with Christ** (3:3–4 – “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. . . .”).
- Having been united with Christ, Paul first commands that we mortify sin (3:5–11), and then that we vivify virtue (3:12–17).





“Beware of no man more than of yourself; we carry our worst enemies within us.”

—Charles Spurgeon

### III. Forsake Your Deceitful Speech (3:9–11)

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**“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 according to the image of the One who created him . . . .”

#### A. The Substance of the Command (v. 9a)

- **“Do not lie”** – “stop telling untruths and be sure never to start.”
- Like the previous vices (vv. 5–8), the Colossians practiced lying because it was the *natural thing to do* in their former state.

**“A lie consists in speaking a falsehood with the intention of deceiving.”**

**— Augustine**

# “Why We Lie: The Science Behind our Deceptive Ways”

(National Geographic, May 15, 2017)

- More than 75% of the reasons why we lie are related to *protecting ourselves from what we deserve*, or to *gaining something we don't*.
- 22% of the reasons are to avoid being exposed for personal sins or errors.
- 16% are for economic advantage.
- 15% are for personal advantage that do not involve money.
- 14% of the reasons relate to avoiding or escaping people who want to spend time with us.
- 8% are to give others a positive self-impression.



- **Proverbs 6:16–19** – “There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness *who utters lies*, and one who spreads strife among brothers.”
- **Proverbs 12:22** – “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are His delight.
- **John 8:44** – “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

- **Psalms 58:3** – “The wicked are estranged from the womb; these who speak lies go astray from birth.”
- **1 Timothy 1:9–11** – “realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.”
- **Revelation 21:8** – “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”



- **Numbers 23:19** – “God is not a man, that He should lie . . . .”
- **Titus 1:2** – “in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.”
- **Hebrews 6:18** – “so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”

**“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 according to the image of the One who created him . . . .”**

- **“To one another”** – to fellow believers; not that lying is permissible to those *outside* the church, but that *lying* has a particularly devastating impact on the church.
  - It is directly contrary to the character of God.
  - It is directly contrary to the example of Jesus.
  - It aligns with Satan, the enemy of the church.
  - It breaks trust and creates suspicions among believers.
  - It diminishes opportunities for one-another ministry.
  - It hardens the heart to truth.

“Christians claim to have the truth, and to follow Him who is the Truth (John 14:6). In our conversations, therefore, truth must be our watchword. How many of us stoop to telling stories with a reprehensible slant, either to make our point more emphatically or to present ourselves in a more glamorous light than the raw facts will allow? How many of us say we will do things and instead renege on these responsibilities because it is personally inconvenient to go through with them?”

—D. A. Carson, *Sermon on the Mount*, 48

**“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 according to the image of the One who created him . . . .”**

## **B. The Basis of the Command (vv. 9b–10)**

- **“Since”** – Paul introduces a *two-part cause* for this command: the first is found in v. 9b; the second in v. 10 (two sides of the same coin).
- **“You laid aside”** – “to take/strip off”; the same verb is used in 2:15 to refer to Christ’s “disarming” of our spiritual enemies; the noun (“removal”) is used in 2:11 to refer to spiritual circumcision.
- **“The old self with its practices”** – the connection to Adam and his kind of humanity, that which identified us as belonging to Adam: *the Adamic, sin nature* (see 2:11).

“For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”

—Romans 6:5–7

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

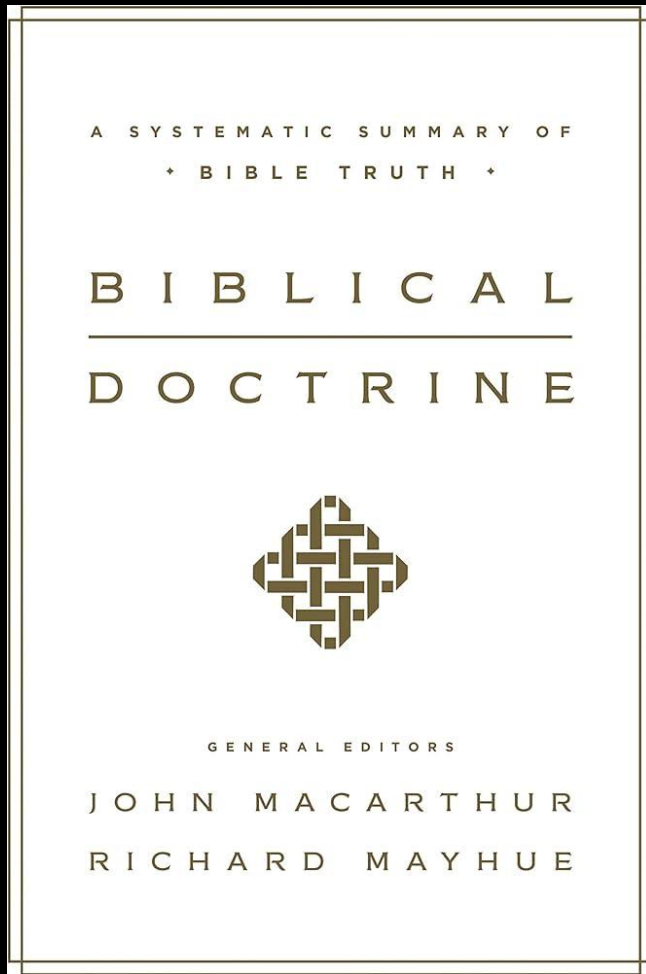
—2 Corinthians 5:17



“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 according to the image of the One who created him . . . .”

## B. The Basis of the Command (vv. 9b–10) – cont’d

- “**Have put on**” – “put on/clothe”; the exact opposite of “laid aside” (v. 9b); the *laying aside* and the *putting on* both speak of completed, decisive acts.
- “**The new self**” – the connection to Christ and His kind of humanity, that which identifies us as belonging to Christ: *the new nature*.
- Believers do not have *two natures* or *two identities*—the old man and the new man existing together; rather, we have *one nature, one identity*—the one defined by Christ.



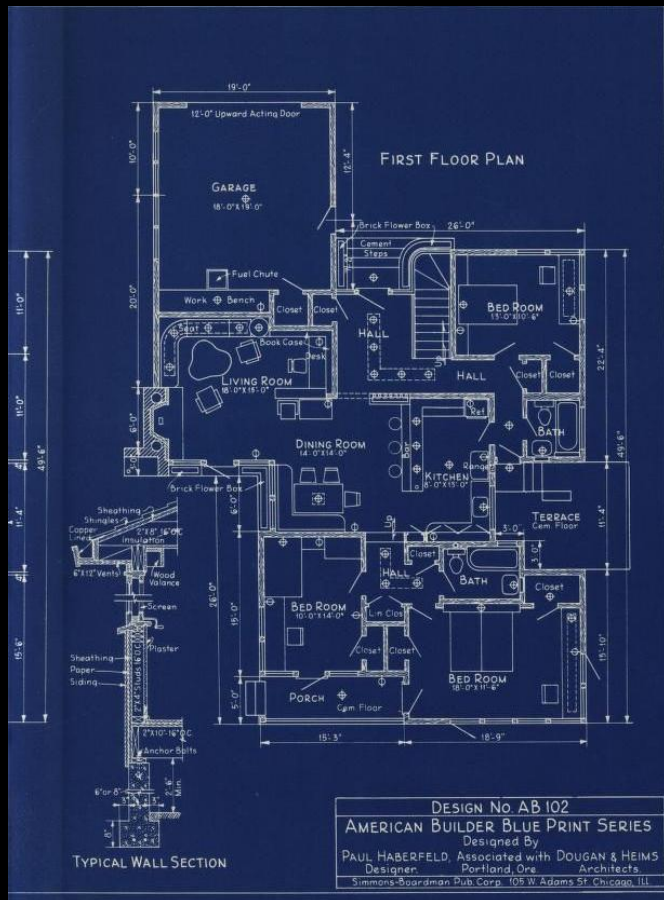
“The old self is the unregenerate self, connected with Adam. It encompasses everything a person is in Adam before union with Christ. The new self is the regenerate self, united with Christ, who replaces the old man. When a person becomes a Christian, he puts on the new self and becomes a ‘new creation’ (2 Cor 5:17). He is no longer the old man. The unregenerate self in Adam is gone forever. The new self in Christ is reality.”

—John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*,  
466–67

**“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 according to the image of the One who created him . . . .”**

- Paul proceeds to describe this “new self” in two ways (vv. 10b–11).
- **“Who is being renewed”** – the first characteristic; an on-going process in the Christian life; even though this *new nature* has been once-for-all *put on*, there remains the need to *fit it into place*; there is a needed inward-to-outward transformation; God is the assumed agent of this renewal.
- **“To a true knowledge”** – the goal of the renewal: *real, true knowledge of God revealed in Christ* (which is why lying is so antithetical to the Christian).

**“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 according to the image of the One who created him . . . .”**



- **“According to the image”** – the *standard* or *archetype* according to which the “renewal,” “outworking,” or “fitting into place” is directed.
- **“The One who created him”** – God, the One who created this *new nature*.
- **“The image of the One”** – Christ, who is explicitly “the image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15; also 2 Cor 4:4), and whose image Christians increasingly reflect.

“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.”

—Romans 8:29

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

—2 Corinthians 3:18

“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

—Colossians 3:4



“... **in which there is no** *distinction between* **Greek and Jew,**  
**circumcised and uncircumcised,** **barbarian, Scythian,** **slave and freeman,**  
but Christ is all, and in all” (v. 11).

- “**In which there is no**” – the second characteristic of this “new man”; it does not contain certain *distinctions*.
- “**Greek and Jew**” – a difference of *ethnicities* (see Eph 2:11–22).
- “**Circumcised and uncircumcised**” – a difference of *religious rites*.
- “**Barbarian, Scythian**” – non-Greek speakers, uncivilized.
- “**Slave and freeman**” – a difference in *socio-economic status*.

“Outside the Christian fellowship those barriers stood as high as ever, and there were Christians on the one side and on the other. From the viewpoint of the old order these Christians were classified in terms of their position on this side or that side of the barrier. But within the community of the new creation—“in Christ”—these barriers were irrelevant; indeed, they had no existence. . . . Where cultural differences exist, the gospel ignores them.”

—F. F. Bruce, *Colossians*, 149

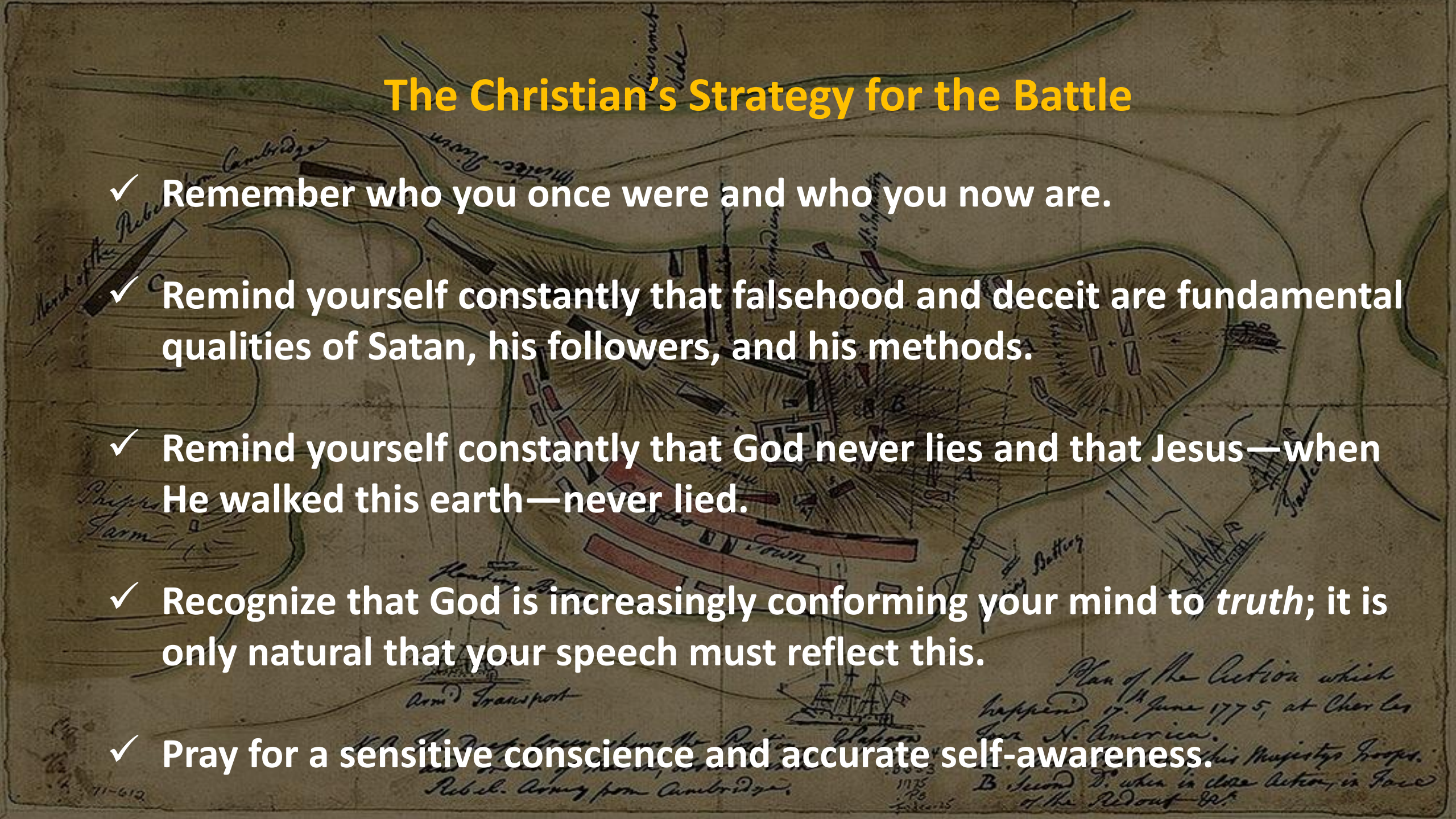
“ . . . in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, **but Christ is all, and in all**” (v. 11).

- Literally, “**But all and in all is Christ.**”
- The removal of all the distinctions, the factions, the tribalism, the condescension, and partiality becomes real only in the “new humanity” united with Christ who is *supreme over all* and *indwells all His people*.



## The Christian's Strategy for the Battle

- ✓ Remember who you once were and who you now are.
- ✓ Remind yourself constantly that falsehood and deceit are fundamental qualities of Satan, his followers, and his methods.
- ✓ Remind yourself constantly that God never lies and that Jesus—when He walked this earth—never lied.
- ✓ Recognize that God is increasingly conforming your mind to *truth*; it is only natural that your speech must reflect this.
- ✓ Pray for a sensitive conscience and accurate self-awareness.





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- ✓ Refuse to engage in *situational ethics*—believing that circumstances temper the extent of Paul’s command to *stop lying*.
  - ✓ Take aim at the most pernicious forms of deceit—deceitful exaggerations, flattery, withholding necessary information, intentional mischaracterizations, little white lies, etc.
  - ✓ Fill your mind with the truth of Scripture; what you take in will come out.
  - ✓ Ensure your inner “dialogues” are true; be one who “speaks truth in his heart” (Psalm 15:2); take every thought captive (2 Cor 5:3–6).
  - ✓ Take time to think before responding.
  - ✓ Like Job, commit to truthfulness in all areas: “My lips certainly will not speak unjustly, nor will my tongue mutter deceit” (Job 27:4).