

“Please Put That Down”
I Peter 2:1-3

Introduction: “Some things do not belong in the life of a child of God. We are to separate ourselves from them if they are matters of an outward nature, and we are to root them out if they are matters of an inward nature—the kinds of things with which Peter deals with here.” (John Phillips)

“We cannot imagine for one moment Lazarus, raised from the dead, wanting to hang on to his grave clothes and to wear them still. It ought to be just as hard to imagine a child of God, wrapped in new life in Christ, hankering after the grave clothes of his old life.” (John Phillips)

1. Romans 13:12- *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”*
2. Ephesians 4:22- *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts”*
3. Ephesians 4:25- *“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”*
4. Colossians 3:8- *“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”*
5. James 1:21- *“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”*

Body: “The allusion is to putting off clothes; and the meaning is, that we are to cast off these things entirely; that is, we are no longer to practice them. The word ‘wherefore’ refers to the reasonings in the first chapter. In view of the considerations stated there, we should renounce all evil.” (Barnes Notes)

I. The Departure of the Saints v. 1- *“Wherefore laying aside all...”*

A. Malice

1. “malice” (Strong’s)- “malignity, malice, ill-will, desire to injure; denotes a vicious disposition”
2. “malice” (Webster’s)- “a disposition to injure others without cause, from mere personal gratification or from a spirit of revenge”
3. “The word ‘malice’ we commonly apply now to a particular kind of evil, denoting extreme enmity of heart, ill-will, a disposition to injure others without cause, from mere personal gratification, or from a spirit of revenge.” (Barnes Notes)
4. Examples: Cain toward Abel; Esau toward Jacob; Joseph’s brethren toward Joseph; Saul toward David; Jews toward Jesus
5. Romans 1:29- *“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”*

6. I Corinthians 5:8- *“Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*
7. Ephesians 4:31- *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice”*
8. Titus 3:3- *“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.”*

B. Guile

1. “guile” (Strong’)- “craft, deceit, subtility”
2. “guile” (Webster’s)- “Craft; cunning; artifice; duplicity; deceit; usually in a bad sense. To disguise craftily.” [catch with bait-RWP]
3. “Guile is craftiness, using devious words and actions to get what we want.” (Wiersbe)
4. Examples: Delilah toward Samson; Jacob and the birthright; Judas
5. John 1:47- *“Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!”*
John 1:48- *“Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.”*
 [“The expression could be paraphrased ‘in whom is no Jacob!’ Jacob was notorious for his guile—until God broke him...” John Phillips]
6. I Thessalonians 2:3- *“For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile”*

C. Hypocrisies

1. “hypocrisies” (Strong’s)- “the acting of a stage player; to impersonate anyone, play a part; pretend”
2. “hypocrite” (Webster’s)- “One who feigns to be what he is not; one who has the form of godliness without the power, or who assumes an appearance of piety and virtue, when he is destitute of true religion.”
3. “The word means, feigning to be what we are not; assuming a false appearance of religion; cloaking a wicked purpose under the appearance of piety.” (Barnes Notes)
4. “Of course, if we are guilty of malice and guile, we will try to hide it; and this produces hypocrisies.” (Wiersbe)
5. Examples: Ananias and Sapphira; Peter at the fire and at Antioch
6. Matthew 23:28- *“Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”*
7. I Timothy 4:2- *“Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron”*

D. Envy

1. “envy” (Webster’s)- “discontent excited by the sight of another's superiority or success, accompanied with some degree of hatred or malignity, and often or usually with a desire or an effort to depreciate the person, and with pleasure in seeing him depressed”

2. "Hatred of others on account of some excellency which they have, or something which they possess which we do not." (Barnes Notes)
3. "Envy and jealousy is twins. Envy resents the advancement of someone or their acquisition of something; jealousy covets that advancement or acquisition for itself." (John Phillips)
4. Examples: Korah, Dathan, and Abiram of Moses; Jews of Paul
5. Matthew 27:18- *"For he knew that for envy they had delivered him."*

E. Evil Speakings (All of these inward sins lead to this outward sin.)

1. "evil speakings" (Strong's)- "defamation, defamer, back biting"
2. "Often the cause of ill will is envy, and one result of envy is evil speaking, conversation that tears the other person down." (Wiersbe)
3. "It would include all unkind or slanderous speaking against others." (Barnes Notes)
4. II Timothy 2:16-18- *"But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."*
5. Titus 1:10-11- *"For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."*
6. III John 1:9-10- *"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."*
7. [Rendered also as backbitings] II Corinthians 12:20- *"For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults"*

II. The Desire of the Saints v. 2- *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word..."* (Principal: Romans 12:21)

A. The Pursuit of the Word- *"As newborn babes, desire..."*

1. "We should have appetites for the Word just like hungry newborn babes!" (Wiersbe)
2. "God's Word has life, gives life, and nourishes life." (Wiersbe)

B. The Purity of the Word- *"...the sincere milk of the word..."*

1. [Some have to add things to milk before they can drink it—chocolate, etc.] “It is sad when Christians have no appetite for God’s Word, but must be ‘fed’ religious entertainment instead.” (Wiersbe)
2. “Sometimes children have no appetite because they have been eating the wrong things.” (Wiersbe) [see v. 1]

III. The Development of the Saints v. 2- “...*that ye may grow thereby*”

A. The Plurality of Growth- “...*that ye...*”

B. The Possibility of Growth- “...*may grow...*”

1. “The greatest need for a newborn babe is care and nourishment so that it can grow; therefore, our local churches should be nurseries.” (John Philips)
2. Most churches are like refrigerators than incubators.
Matthew 22:14- “*For many are called, but few are chosen.*”
 Little Girl- “Many are cold, but a few are frozen!” (God’s frozen chosen!)

Conclusion: [v. 3] “If these attitudes and actions are in our lives, we will lose our appetite for the pure word of God. If we stop feeding on the Word, we stop growing, and we stop enjoying (“tasting”) the grace that we find in the Lord.” (Wiersbe)

Hebrews 6:4- “...*and have tasted of the heavenly gift...*”

Psalms 34:8- “*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*”