



“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,”
(Ephesians 4:15 NAS95)

“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.” (Ephesians 4:25 NAS95)

laying aside – not just in theory, but in practice, with specificity

Rom. 13:12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us **lay aside the deeds of darkness** and put on the armor of light.

Eph. 4:22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

Col. 3:8 But now you also, **put them all aside**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

Heb. 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, **let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

James 1:21 Therefore, **putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness**, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

1Pet. 2:1 Therefore, **putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander**,

Ephesians 4:25 quotes Zechariah 8:16. God intends to do good to Jerusalem, but it appears the speaking of truth is an important, even essential, part of that good coming about. It is not only individuals who must speak the truth, but communities.

“These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. ‘Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,’ declares the LORD.” (Zechariah 8:16–17 NAS95)

Truth-telling requires not only right facts, but also righteous intent.

“He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit.
There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.” (Proverbs 12:17–19 NAS95)