

## **AA23. Ridding Ourselves of Unholy Characteristics.**

*We are rid ourselves of unholy characteristics.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

AA23a *We are to rid ourselves of our old nature.*

AA23b *We are to rid ourselves of falsehood.*

AA23c *We are to rid ourselves of bitterness.*

AA23d *We are to rid ourselves of rage.*

AA23e *We are to rid ourselves of anger.*

AA23f *We are to rid ourselves of violent assertiveness.*

AA23g *We are to rid ourselves of slander.*

AA23h *We are to rid ourselves of spitefulness.*

AA23i *We are to rid ourselves of vulgarity.*

AA23j *We are to rid ourselves of evil.*

### **Key New Testament Scriptures**

#### Ephesians 4:22

*.. then, so far as your former way of life is concerned, you must strip off your old nature, because your old nature is thoroughly rotted by its deceptive desires;*

#### Ephesians 4:25

*Therefore, stripping off falsehood, let everyone speak truth with his neighbor, because we are intimately related to each other as parts of a body.*

#### Ephesians 4:31

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, violent assertiveness and slander, along with all spitefulness*

#### James 1:21

*So rid yourselves of all vulgarity and obvious evil, and receive meekly the Word implanted in you that can save your lives.*

### **Additional New Testament Scriptures**

None listed although many are possible.

### **Related New Testament Mitzvot**

Many of the *Mitzvot* in this volume identify unholy characteristics from which we must rid ourselves – too many to list. This *Mitzvah* #AA23 lists ten such characteristics, and here are six other *Mitzvot* (merely examples from category “AA”) that identify similar unholy characteristics:

AA08 Guarding Ourselves Against Greed  
AA13 Fleeing from Sin and Evil  
AA36 Not Blaspheming  
AA49 Not Giving Ourselves to Sensuality  
AA52 Not Being Rebellious  
AA55 Not Being Double-Minded

### **Supportive Tanakh Scriptures**

#### Genesis 13:6

*Then Ya'akov said to his household and all the others with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods that you have with you, purify yourselves, and put on fresh clothes.*

#### Deuteronomy 13:6

*This is how you are to rid your community of this wickedness.*

#### 1 Kings 15:12

*He rid the land of cult-prostitutes and removed all the idols his ancestors had made.*

#### Ezekiel 45:9

*Adonai ELOHIM says this: 'Princes of Isra'el, that should be enough for you! Get rid of violence and looting, do what is right and just, and stop evicting my people from their land!' says Adonai Elohim.*

### **Comment**

There are many Scriptures in the Bible that identify individual unholy characteristics from which we must rid ourselves. Ephesians 4:31 and James 1:21 collectively list eight of them, but by the Apostle Paul referring to the "old nature" in Ephesians 4:22, he is making it clear to those to whom he is speaking that they (and by inference we) are to rid themselves of not only those but all others as well. That is why this *Mitzvah* #AA23 is so broadly expressed; other *Mitzvot* in these volumes will address unholy characteristics individually.

### **Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2**

A03 *Being Good Stewards*  
A09 *Swearing Falsely*  
A17 *Being Humble & Not Prideful*  
A21 *Fleeing from Love of Money and Pursuing Godly Virtues*  
F01 *Honoring and Revering Our Father and Mother*  
F04 *Withholding Food, Clothing, or Marital Rights from Our Wife*  
G15 *Blaspheming God vs. Receiving Messiah & the Holy Spirit*  
M03 *Telling the Truth*