

“So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.”  
1 Peter 2:1 NLT

## lectio // 1 Peter 2:1-3

Peter writes right to the point. All of us have evil behaviors. The Apostle Paul often writes about “putting off” the old ways or old dead, sinner ways. However, I know a lot of believers who have known Christ and walked with Christ since they were a child. What were their “old sinner” ways like? Peter does seem to be addressing young believers because of the “newborn” reference but shouldn’t everyone realize they still have evil ways? Normally evil ways brings up a laundry list of “sins.” It’s always the same, tired list: smokin, drinkin, gambling, rock-n-roll music and pre-marital, omni-marital and post-marital sex (fornication). Oh, it’s not like all those things are good for me (I don’t do any of them BTW), but Peter goes much deeper. He hits hidden sin or sins we just let slide. Sins like deceit. Folks hate deceitful humans! Their friend group just gets so small, it’s non-existent. And we pretend the rest of the list only exist on reality TV shows - hypocrisy, jealousy and unkind speech. Do I ever call FOUL on unkind speech? I should right? It stinks far more than cigarette smoke or alcoholic barf breath. It’s EVIL and I - I need to constantly repent and let the Holy Spirit catch and correct my heart and mouth BEFORE I go out hurting someone. Are these behaviors rampant in the church? Sometimes. Are these behaviors ignored or “allowed” in the church? Sometimes. I can deal with newborns acting out with these behaviors, because they are just learning to let God work in them, but when older “mature” believers behave this way? Peter calls EVERYONE out. Sorry for the rant, but sometimes an enneagram nine has to practice speaking up. And right now, the Holy Spirit is pinpointing the scalpel at me too.

Dad,

I can easily spot behaviors that just annoy the dung out of me, then I realize that I am sensitive to many of these sins because they not only exist in me, but you are wanting to identify them and help me GET RID of them. So I repent of deceit. I repent of hypocrisy. I repent of jealousy (envy too), and I would like to reserve unkind words for those who deserve it? NO! I repent of using unkind words to control others or as an excuse to defend myself. Help me to kick these behaviors to the curb.