

## New Year Resolve

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I will start afresh this new year with a higher, fairer creed;	I will try to find contentment in the paths that I may tread;
I will cease to stand complaining of my ruthless neighbor's greed;	I will cease to have resentment when another gets ahead.
I will cease to sit repining while my duty's call is clear;	I will not be swayed by envy when my rival's strength is shown;
I will waste no moment whining, and my heart shall know no fear.	I will not deny his merit, but I'll try to prove my own.
I will look sometimes about me for the things that merit praise;	I will try to see the beauty spread before me, rain or shine;
I will search for hidden beauties that elude the grumbler's gaze;	I will cease to preach your duty, and be more concerned with mine.

If we all resolved in this new year to improve our attitude toward others and our own station in life, how much richer would our lives be? Unfortunately, this is an election year and there should be a ton of mud-slinging in an effort to promote political party agenda. But you and I, as Christians, can determine to learn the **truth** about others — *even political candidates and parties* — and vote and act like a God-fearing, neighbor-loving, peace-desiring persons. It will take considerable effort, but keeping our eye on the life of Jesus found in the Gospels is a great way to stay focused.

### The Christian's Checklist:

*"But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."* **Ephesians 4:20–24.**

- Put away lying and speak the truth, v. 25.
- Be angry but do not sin, v. 26.
- Don't give in to the Devil, v. 27.
- Do not steal, but work in order to give to others, v. 28.
- Do not use corrupt language, but words that build up others, v. 29.
- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit, v. 30.
- Put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil-speaking, v. 31.
- Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, and forgiving one another, v. 32.
- Walk in love, as Christ has loved us, 5:2.
- Do not practice fornication, uncleanness or covetousness — even once! 5:3
- Do not practice filthiness, foolish talking, coarse jesting, 5:4.

*"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them."* **Ephesians 5:6–7**

Read the similar list found in **Colossians 3:5-16**. You can add to the above list from this Scripture the following: **love**, which is the bond of perfection; **forgiving** one another, **peace** and **thankfulness**.

*"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, ..."* **Colossians 3:15–16a.**

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