

Colossians 3:5-17 (New International Version 1984)

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:5-17 (The Message)

⁵⁻⁸ And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

⁹⁻¹¹ Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

Good Morning, First Baptist Members and Friends! I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord. If you are also glad this morning, then join me in praising Him. **Praise Him** for His goodness and mercy. **Praise Him** for loving you and keeping you. **Praise Him** for allowing you to make your way to His house this morning. Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord!

We continue this morning with the third lesson from Paul's letter to the church at Colosse. Although this letter was written almost 2000¹ years ago it still has a message for us today. It has a message because people are still forgetting who they are suppose to be once they have become God's chosen people.

People in the 21st century are still getting angry, still having rages (road rage), still lying on each other and to each other and people are still speaking language that should not come from the mouth of one of God's children. God's people have forgotten that when they gave God their heart God wanted all of them. God wanted them/us to put our old self to death and be born anew. Transformed into a new creation in Christ Jesus.

So I ask you to pray with me and for me as we work with this theme:

GETTING DRESSED FOR GOD

¹ About A.D. 60 during Paul's imprisonment

SHALL WE PRAY! God, Father, Comforter and Friend we come this morning asking You to help us become a new person, a person that is working to be more like Jesus the Christ. We are each different, with different baggage and different needs yet you have told us that in You we are all children, holy and dearly loved. Help us to hear the sermon this morning with our whole hearts. Let the words we hear transform us into who you have called us to be. I ask that the words of my mouth and the meditations of heart be acceptable to you. It is in the name of Jesus we pray. AMEN and AMEN.

GETTING DRESSED FOR GOD

I want to move into the teaching points of our lesson this morning with the hope of giving you something to think about this week. As a matter of fact I want you to think about this sermon every day this week.

When you shower before bed and/or first thing in the morning I want you to scrub off your anger, your rage, your malice, and your slander. When you brush your teeth brush off and out the filth language you spoke. Remind yourself that you are beginning this day

GETTING DRESSED FOR GOD

As you dress I want you to be conscious of putting on your new self. Your new self is the self that you became when you confessed Jesus was Lord. Your new self is the self you became when you buried your old self in baptism and your new self was born. Your new self is the self you asked God to help you to be when you joined church. So think about it and put on your new self.

When you put on your **underwear** think about you are putting on **compassion**. Compassion, for those who do not have what you have. Compassion for those who cannot serve God like you can.

Compassion for those who are sick in body, mind and spirit.

COMPASSION, CARE, CONCERN FOR OUR CITY, STATE AND COUNTRY.

When you put on your **shirt** think of the **kindness** we are to have for each other. Think about being **kind** to someone who has on a shirt you would not be caught dead in. Think of speaking to someone who you have never spoken to. Think of having kind thoughts. Kindness, hospitality, understanding, friendliness, are part of the wardrobe of a child of God.

When you put on your **pants, skirt or jeans** think about **humility**. Do not focus on how good you look, but focus on how blessed you are. Do not take pride in the label on your clothes, but thank God for what you have. Do not wear whatever the world is wearing, but remember you are a child of the Most High God and that God calls you to give Him your whole life.

When you put on **your socks** do so with **gentleness**. Remembering that God calls you to first love and care for yourself and then to care for others. Look at each of your socks and think about how gentle God has been with you – when you lie, cheat, sin and think bad thoughts. A child of God's is good tempered, good natured, and good hearted.

When you put on **your shoes** do so with **patience**. Think of how your parents were patient with you – as you learned to walk, talk, feed yourself, go to the bedroom by yourself. Think of how patient your parents have been with you as they remind you to make the bed, put the dirty clothes in the hamper, hang-up the clean clothes and bring the dishes to the kitchen. Think of how patient God has been with You as he waits for you to get it.

Now you have on your **underwear of patience, your shirt of kindness, your jeans, skirt, pants of humility, your socks of gentleness and your shoes of patience.**

But you are not yet ready for your day. Go to the mirror and check yourself out. As you look over your outside self - check on your inside self. Is there something you need to forgive yourself for doing/saying/thinking? Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there something you have borrowed that you need to return? Is there some anger that you need to throw away? If so, you need to remember that God forgives you for all your stuff only after you have forgiven others for their stuff. "... if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6:14)

Now that you have check yourself out in the mirror, it is time to go. Don't forget your coat. You need to cover your **underwear of patience, your shirt of kindness, your jeans, skirt, pants of humility, your socks of gentleness and your shoes of patience with love.**

Paul tells the church at Colosse and the church at Westwood and Orchard that love is what binds it all together. Love is what allows you to sing your psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God with gratitude in your hearts. So remember Paul's words as spoken in THE MESSAGE ¹²⁻¹⁴ *(So, chosen by God for this new life of love), dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.*

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AMEN