

Title: Dress for Success

Theme: Christians are called to walk according to their new nature, which requires being clothed in the virtues of Christ.

Text: Colossians 3:12-17

I. Introduction

- A. The Emperor has no clothes
- B. We are expected to wear clothing appropriate for the occasion (eg. Wedding clothes)
- C. We are expected to dress appropriately for our occupation
- D. Our new nature (Col. 3:1-4) requires taking off old clothing (Col. 3:5-8) and putting on new clothing (Col. 3:12)

II. The Virtues of Christ: Our Clothing (Col. 3:12)

The reason for the clothing is we are God's chosen people, we are holy and dearly loved (Col. 3:12). God hand-picked us for His purposes. He is transforming us into His image. And He loves us deeply and unconditionally (see 1Jn. 3:1)

A. Basic articles of clothing (Col. 3:12)

1. Compassion

- a. Compassion allows us to comfort those who are suffering (2Co. 1:3-7)
- b. It comes from the depth of our being (bowels of mercy KJV); it is deeply emotional and considerate

2. Kindness

- a. With kindness, we have the other's best interests in mind
- b. God's kindness leads to our repentance

3. Humility

Humility is lowliness of mind; it is considering others ahead of ourselves
(Php. 2:3)

4. Gentleness

- a. Gentleness is related to humility; it is not weakness
- b. Gentleness is a strength of character where one can resist rudeness and self-assertion

5. Patience

Patience is allowing others time and not giving up on them

B. Binding article of clothing: Love (Col. 3:14)

“We love because He first love us.” (1Jn. 4:19)

III. The Peace and the Message of Christ: Our Tailor (Col. 3:15-16)

- A. The Peace of Christ is our ruler (Col. 3:15)
- B. Peace is our calling (Col. 3:15)
- C. The Message of Christ is our companion (Col. 3:16)

IV. The Ways of Christ: Our Job Description (Col. 3:16-17)

- A. We are to teach and admonish each other (Col. 3:16)
- B. Our “other duties as assigned” are to do all in the Name of Christ (Col. 3:17)

V. Applying the Word

- A. Am I a true believer in Christ?
- B. Am I consciously dressing in the virtues of Christ daily, or do I continue to wear my worldly garments?
- C. Does the peace of Christ rule my life?
- D. Am I in God’s Word daily?