

Challenged & Blessed

Paul's Message to the Church



Dressed for Success

Colossians 3:12-17

Colossians 3:9-17 (The Message)

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.

Dress for Success! **New Life, New Wardrobe**

For everything we do, there is a certain apparel that goes with the activity. For instance, runners choose the best running shoes, and the most comfortable wicking clothes, perhaps with pockets for water bottles, etc., and of a highly visible color day and night, to stay both safe and comfortable. After telling us what to take off, Paul now tells us what new clothes we are to wear for living this new life in Christ.

When you were a child, what kinds of seasonal clothes did your parents make you wear, whether fashionable or not?

What was one behavior your parents insisted on just because you were a member of the family?

“God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved”... Why does Paul begin in v. 12 reminding us who we are?

Why is that description of us not dependent on our feelings or efforts?

In verses 13 and 14, Paul acknowledges that people hurt each other – at home and certainly in the church as well. How are his instructions for handling grievances between us different from the way our culture handles them?

In verse 15, Paul also says that when peace rules in our relationships, conflicts are more readily solved. Where have you seen this in your life?

What does it mean to “let the message of Christ dwell in you richly”?

Of all the new clothes mentioned in this passage, which ones do you need most to put on?

Pray for God to provide that for you.