

Risen With Christ
Put Your Clothes On
Col 3.5-17

[Are you risen with Christ? Have you set your affections or desires upon things above, upon eternity to come, upon your heavenly citizenship? What does that look like if you have done so? Paul has challenged us to recognize that we are dead to this life, world, and mortal existence and resurrected to a new eternal life and we ought to live in a resurrected state. It is almost as if the apostle Paul is saying, Get Up, Wake Up, Get Dressed, and Do Something.]

[What do all of us have to do when we get up in the morning? We have to get dressed for the day. Well, I guess I can't say all of us have to do this anymore. It seems that there are many around us that seem to be of the opinion their Pajamma's are appropriate public attire. However, I have yet to see someone wear their PJ's to work and keep their job. You get up in the morning, you get cleaned up, you get dressed and you go to work dressed appropriately for your day. Hence, it matters what you wear.]

[Well, Paul seems to be using the idea of getting dressed as an illustration for living the Christian life. In,]

- [Verses 1-7 Paul stated the we are resurrected with Christ, we have gotten up in our Lord Jesus Christ. We died with Him, we were buried with Him, and now we are resurrected in Him.]
- [Verses 8-17 Paul says, put off your graves clothes and put on your resurrection clothes. Put off your servant clothes and put on your royal clothes.]

[Now the clothing Paul describes is not clothing as in the actual garments one puts on from day to day, but the garments Paul refers to are the garments that shroud your character. Think about your clothes for a few minutes. People spend a lot of time, money, and effort picking out and preparing the clothes they are going to wear. Why? Because the clothes one wears says a lot about the person wearing them. Well, so it is with the character that shrouds your life. Your character reveals volumes about you. It matters what you put on your character from day to day.]

Our Text Reveals That,

A. Your Clothes Are A Choice (vs 8, 12; Eph 4.22-24; Heb 12.1-2; Jam 1.21-22) [*– But now ye also put off all these; . . . ; ¹² Put on therefore, . . .]*

[**Put Off** - ἀπόθεσθε (Gk) – Aorist, Middle, **Imperative**]

[**Put On** - Ἐνδύσασθε (Gk) - Aorist, Middle, **Imperative**]

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A. Your Clothes Are A Choice

[Simply put these words merely mean to take off one thing and put on another **as a matter of fact**. To simply make it so and keep it so. To view it as an act that has occurred and continues to occur.]

[It is equally important to note that both of these words are in the Middle Voice which indicates that there is a joint effort involved. It is not active and it is not passive it is the middle voice thus indicating that we are not working on our own behalf but at the sometime another (God) is working on our behalf as well. The point to understand here is that there is something for us to do, but we cannot do it apart from God.]

[The Theological truth here is that there is a character that undeniably clothes every born-again Christian, but it is impossible for the unredeemed, apart from God, to put this same character on. The unredeemed may put on a character that emulates the character of the born-again child of God, **but he does not have access to the same closet** as the heir to the throne and therefore cannot put on the same shroud of glory.]

[What does this mean for you and I? It means that as a born-again Christian God has given you access to the closet of God's royal kingdom and you can put on what the world cannot possibly put on. On the other hand, it also means that you have a part in this clothing process. You must now reach into the royal closet, grab the immortal garments provided by your heavenly father and put them on. God will not force dress you.]

[**Illustration** – Dressing An Unwilling Toddler – Have you ever watched a parent try to dress an unwilling toddler. The parent tells little Johnny that he needs to get dressed, but little Johnny just isn't listening, today is either diaper only day or less. So, the parent puts an article of clothing on little Johnny and no sooner than it is on it is either off or on the wrong spot. It is futile.]

[Well, for many Christians, when it comes to putting on their glorious royal clothes of godly character, they are no more willing than little Johnny. But they should be.]

[Perhaps you are one of those here today that have been a Christian for many years, but you still look very much, character wise, as you did the day you were saved. You have convinced yourself that being clothed with the character of God is just not something God has given you. But do you understand that while God has provided a closet full of royal garment for you, you must be the one to take off the old graves clothes and put on the new royal garments of grace.]

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A. Your Clothes Are A Choice

James 1.22

[The Bible Says,]

*[Ephesians 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ **And that ye put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.]*

*[Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run** with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.]*

*[James 1:21-22 Wherefore **lay apart** all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive with meekness** the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.]*

B. Your Character Is A Choice (vs 8-16) [– So just what are graves clothes and what are the garments of glory provided by our Lord?]

1. **Graves Clothes (vs 8-11; Eph 4.32)** [*– But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; ¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: ¹¹ Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*]

[Under Clothes (vs 8-9) - Personal Characteristics – These are your inmost characteristics. They can often be detected by those around us, but they can also be hidden deep within us.]

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[Wonder Clothes (vs 10-11) – These are what the world around us knows about us. They know if we are honest and trustworthy and they also know much about our prejudices.]

[What we need to understand about everything listed here is that these clothes are graves clothes and they will not foster life, fulfillment, or contentment. If you find that you are angry and hateful in your heart and mind then you need to do something about these. Now, many who find that they are angry, malicious and bitter in their thoughts and heart will quickly say, “It’s not my fault, but so and so has done this too me.” Listen to the Word of God, and God never lies. You can put this garment off. These will often say, “How do I do this, I can’t help how I feel.” Listen to the Apostle Paul, who, through inspiration is speaking for God. **YOU MUST PUT IT OFF.**]

[Just take it off like and dirty piece of clothing and don’t put it back on. Youth are you bitter about something with your friends, parents, or family then you must put that graves cloth off. Church members, are you angry or prejudice toward another Church person, for any reason, then you must put that defiled garment aside. Just take it off and refuse to put it back on.]

[Listen carefully here. If you have some of these defiling garments on the first thing you will do, in many cases, is become a hypocrite. You will harbor those hateful and divisive thoughts in your heart and mind but outwardly you will lie to everyone around you. You will say everything is

wonderful and good, but inside you know that there is anger, and wrath brewing. Hence Paul writes in verse nine,]

[Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;]

[Hateful, wrathful thoughts often lead to lies and then prejudice. They divide friendships, families, and Churches. Our Lord wants His body unified. He said,]

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- A. Your Clothes Are A Choice**
- B. Your Character Is A Choice**
 - 1. Graves Clothes – Put Off

[Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.]

2. **Grace Filled Garments (vs 12-16; Psalm 119.9,11; 1 Pet 2.1-3)** [– Put on therefore, **as the elect of God, holy and beloved**, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. ¹⁴ And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. – These are the garments that our Lord has provided in our resurrection closet. These are the grace filled garments of the immortal. Those who willingly reach into the closet of heaven and put on these glorious garments will find fulfillment, contentment, and abounding life.]

[It doesn't take much thought to realize that we all want to be around merciful, kind, humble, longsuffering people who will be forgiving, loving, and peaceful. If we would put on these glorious garments then we would quickly find that many would also want to be around us. We must also remember that the world has a form of each of these characteristics that leaves out the beginning of this exhortation. **We must be holy in all of these characteristics.** So, our kindness must be holy kindness, our love must be holy love, our forgiveness must be holy forgiveness, our peace must be holy peacefulness.]

[Folks, what God provides for us to put on is exactly what we all desire in life. I think that some people think that living the Christian life is ridiculous and weird. **But the truth is that the immortal garments found in our Lord's royal closet are what we all already know make for the best possible life.** **There is nothing undesirable about what our Lord wants us to put on in our relationship with Him.** The sacrificial and radical part about our Christian life in Christ is simply that this lost dead world has declared war upon God and the people of God, and their war is far more radical than any Islamic Jihad.]

[The hardest part about putting on these garments is just knowing how to put them on and Paul tells us directly how to discover the only workable method for putting on these glorious garments. Look at,

[Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.]

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- B. Your Character Is A Choice**
 - 1. Graves Clothes – Put Off
 - 2. Grace Filled Garments – Put On

[You will not find yourself able to put on the wardrobe of Christ apart from the Word of God. The Bible states,]

[Psalm 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.]

[Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.]

[1 Peter 2:1-2 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, ²As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:]

[My Christian friends, you can cloth yourself in the glorious garments of immortal grace by taking off the graves clothes of worldly corruption and putting on the garments of glory provided by our Lord, if you want to and will. My friends this is the consecration side of your sanctification and it is in your power and will to do. The question is, will you?]

C. Your Character Must Represent Christ (vs 17; 2 Cor 5.19-21) [– *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.* – This brings us to the why of your putting on the clothing of the character of a Child of God. Your choices and character are far more important than you may want to admit. As a born-again Christian you are a representative of the family and kingdom of God everywhere you go. The world watches you to see if you live like the prince and princess you claim to be. The Word of God says,]

[2 Corinthians 5:19-21 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. ²¹ For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.]

[No matter where you go or what you are doing you are representing the Lord Jesus Christ, your family, your Church, and your community. The characteristics that mark your life will also reflect upon our Lord and His kingdom, your family, your Church and your community. If you are a thief, an adulterer, a liar, or a vile person and those who know you know that you are a part of Crossroads Baptist Church, then the world will look at this Church and will assume that this Church is full of people just like you and that we endorse lives like yours.]

[Someone might say, “I don’t care what someone thinks about my Church or faith. I’m not going to live my life for anything but myself.” What you fail to understand is that it is all connected. If they think ill of your family, your church or your community because of you then that is what they are thinking about you. Hence, Paul says, put off the graves clothes of worldly defilement and wickedness and put on the glorious garments that our Lord has graciously provided for you.]

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- C. Your Character Must Represent Christ**

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