

Lesson Twelve
Colossians 3: 10-17
A New Wardrobe

In our last lesson we looked at our need for ridding ourselves of the filthy clothing we are no longer to be wearing as a Christian. With that in mind, we need to find out how we are to be dressed. As women we like to be fashionable, look nice in our clothes and even try to make an impression with how we are dressed. How much more important it is as Christians that we be clothed with the new clothes that reflect the fact that we belong to God!

Day One – New Clothes for a New Man
Read Colossians 3:10-11

1. Throughout the remainder of chapter 3, believers are exhorted to regularly put on certain characteristics just as if they were donning an essential, yet beautiful piece of clothing. In Colossians 3:10, Paul uses this clothing metaphor to illustrate an essential action that should be a reality in every Christian's life, that of putting on the new man. How is this new man characterized?

a. What else does 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Ephesians 4:24 say about the new man?

2. Our clothing can influence others perception of us. Likewise, a Christian's behavior can leave others with a definite impression of Jesus, much like a distinct outfit would. With that in mind, how are your actions reflecting the image of Christ to those around you?

3. The garments of the new man aren't thrown together in a haphazard fashion; in order to be correctly outfitted, he must consistently choose appropriate clothing. How can this be achieved?

Proverbs 2:4-6

Proverbs 18:15

Romans 12:2

4. Renewal in the knowledge of the Word of God will always keep the new man in the correct attire. In what ways does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 say that this will benefit him?

Day Two – Barriers Gone

Read Colossians 3:10-11

1. New life also includes relationships. The Colossian believers were commanded to not only put off old habits, but to rid themselves of old prejudices as well. How is this reflected in Colossians 3:11?

2. The ancient world, much like today, experienced racial and religious tensions that isolated individual groups and put them at odds with one another. How does the Bible address this wrong thinking?

Romans 10:12

1 Corinthians 1:10

Galatians 3:26-28

a. If Christians worldwide genuinely applied these truths, what kind of changes do you think we would see in our society?

3. What about you? If there are any lingering prejudices against a particular ethnic group or church affiliation that you need to let go, now is the time to do so. Bring it to the Lord and ask Him to set you free! Write your prayer below.

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality’”.
Acts 10:34

Day Three – The Perfectly Dressed Elect
Read Colossians 3:12-14

1. Paul often reminds believers of their standing before God in order to prompt them to act accordingly. What words does he use in Colossians 3:12a to describe the position of the new man?

a. How ought this status affect the way that we live?

2. As the new man strips off unattractive behaviors, the Lord desires that he clothe himself in apparel that is more becoming of a believer. How should each of these new garments be put to use in the life of the elect?

The Believers New Clothes	Scripture	Examples of how to apply in your own life
<i>Tender Mercies</i>	<i>Luke 10:30-34</i> <i>Romans 12:13</i>	
<i>Kindness</i>	<i>Romans 12:10</i>	
<i>Humility, meekness and longsuffering</i>	<i>Ephesians 4:1-2</i> <i>1 Peter 5:5</i>	
<i>Bearing with one another</i>	<i>Galatians 6:2</i>	
<i>Forgiving one another</i>	<i>Mark 11:25-26</i>	

3. Insight into the command to forgive is found in Colossians 3:13b and Ephesians 4:32. What do they say?

a. If you consistently put on forgiveness, how will it affect your relationships?

4. Jesus gives us the perfect picture of how the new man should look. Record His example from the following verses.

John 13:14-15

Philippians 2:5-7

1 Peter 2:21-24

5. The right tie or perfect pair of shoes can bring together an outfit in a way that makes the wearer stand out. Likewise, love should be the accessory that ties the Christian's spiritual apparel together according to Colossians 3:14. Read each of the following verses carefully and describe in your own words how love should be expressed in your life.

Matthew 5:43-48

John 15:12-13

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"...but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

Day Four – An All-Occasion Outfit
Read Colossians 3:15-17

1. Paul concludes his look at the qualities that should dress the new man with a series of exhortations that are preceded by the word *let*. What are believers urged to do in verses 15-16?

2. The peace of God that rules in your heart that is spoken of in verse 15 means: to sit as an umpire, to arbitrate or settle all differences and to make a final decision. By this definition, what does it mean to have God's peace rule in your life?

a. Why is this important?

3. What makes God's peace so wonderfully different according to John 14:27 and Philippians 4:7?

4. Isaiah 26:3 promises a sure way that His peace can be obtained. What does it say?

a. In what way does this verse relate to Colossians 3:15?

5. According to Colossians 3:16, what flows from a mind that is controlled by scripture?

a. How does knowing the Bible enable you to:

Teach and admonish?

Use psalms, hymns and spiritual songs?

Sing with grace in your heart to the Lord?

6. Our ultimate goal each day should be to put on Christ. Believers should spiritually clothe themselves so that when others look at them, they see Jesus. Read Colossians 3:17. What will you do this week to show Jesus to others in this way?

a. Write a prayer below asking Him to give you the willingness and compassion to do so.

"If a man brings every word and deed to the presence of Jesus Christ, he will not go wrong."
William Barclay

