

A WHOLE NEW WARDROBE (PART 1)

10/14/07

Intro – Do you dress like a Christian? Are you dressed like a Christian today? How about this coming week when you go to work, school, etc...? Will you dress like a Christian then? Now, I'm not talking about natural dress, but rather spiritual dress. Our Bridegroom, Jesus, loves to see His bride (the church) dressed in certain outfits. Over the past few weeks we discussed a couple of these: The Robe of Righteousness and The Garment of Praise. In past messages we've also referred to a few others: Servant's Garb and the Armor of God. However, the Lord really wants to go into our spiritual closet and clean out the old wardrobe and give us an entirely new wardrobe. Today and next week we're going to address this change of wardrobe. By the way, what do you have in your closet?

Eph 4:22,24 – “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ... And to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

1. PREREQUISITE UNDERSTANDING: POSITION, then PRACTICE (WALK)

A. _____ – “What we are, and receive the moment we believe”

- “Sealed” (Eph 1:13)
- “Seated” (Eph. 2:6)
- “Saved” (Eph. 2:8)

B. _____ – “The practical, every day walking out of our faith where we continually become more like Jesus in what we say and do.”

2. WARDROBE: OLD > NEW

EPHESIANS 4 & 5

A. _____ > _____

4:25 – “Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood and speak truthfully** to his neighbor...”

*Discussion:

1. How does God feel about lying? Why?
2. What did a recent poll reveal about how Americans feel about lying?
3. What is meant by “truth meant to deceive”?

B. _____ > _____

4:26-27(N.L.T.) – “And don't sin by letting **anger gain control over you**. Don't let the **sun go down while you are still angry**, for anger gives a **mighty foothold to the devil**.”

*Discussion:

1. How did Jesus demonstrate the difference between “controlling anger” and “controlled anger”? *(Hint: Did Jesus ever get angry? If so, about what?)
2. Why is it so dangerous to let the sun go down on your anger?

C. _____ > _____
4:31-32 – “**Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other as Christ forgave you.**”

***Discussion:**

1. If they could all be gathered in one place, who did Col Stringer say would make up the largest church in any community he’s ever visited?
2. What is the key to moving from anger and bitterness to forgiveness and kindness?
3. Why is this so difficult, but if not done, what are the results?

D. _____ > _____
4:28 – “**He who has been *stealing* must steal no longer, but must *work*, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to *share* with those in need..**”

***Discussion:**

1. Give examples of stealing that many people do and see nothing wrong with it.
2. What are some of the things God’s Word says about people who don’t work?
*(See: II Thess. 3:6b, 10b; I Tim 5:8)
3. God goes even further telling us to work as though we were working for Him.
How would this change the way many people work?

**CONCLUSION: What is the difference between “CONDEMNATION” and “CONVICTION”?
How does this question relate to what we’ve just been taught? Which one are you going to receive?**