

A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS Part 4

For the past few weeks we've been making the argument that God has called us to be a "kingdom of priests" ([Exodus 19:6](#); [1Peter 2:5](#)). Last week, we went as far as to say that even the garments worn by the priests in the Old Testament have significance for us. No, not in the sense that some thing. (There are many in the Church today who believe that, if you're a member of the clergy, you are supposed to copy the dress of the priests in the Old Testament.) However, the garments worn by the priests in the Old Testament aren't intended to be copied literally. They're intended to be studied so they can be copied spiritually!

Exodus 29:5

⁵ And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat...

The FIRST article of clothing that Aaron (the priest) was instructed to put on was a linen COAT.

This coat was the first piece of clothing Aaron was to put on because it was to act like a kind of 'undergarment' to cover his nakedness!

Exodus 28:42 Holman Christian Study Bible

⁴² Make them linen undergarments to cover their naked bodies...

Putting on this linen coat (undergarment) represents putting on righteousness.

Revelation 19:8

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Exodus 29:5

⁵ And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod...

The second article of clothing that Aaron was instructed to put on was an outer 'ROBE.' This robe was blue and worn on top of the linen coat.

Putting on this garment represents putting on the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 28:31, 33

³¹ And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue. ³³ And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about:

Notice that there were bells and pomegranates embroidered on the hem of this garment. The ‘pomegranates’ represent the *fruit of the Spirit*, while ‘bells’ represents the *gifts of the Spirit*!

Exodus 29:5

⁵ And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod...

The next article of clothing Aaron was instructed to put on was the ‘EPHOD.’ We said to you that the ephod was an embroidered apron or ‘vest-like’ garment worn on top of the blue outer robe.

The ephod was an important piece because it supported the breastplate. The breastplate enabled the priest to perform his most important task—be a mediator for Israel!

What does the ephod represent? Well, we simply need to ask, “What supports mediation or makes it possible?”

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

What prompted Christ to die or mediate for us? God’s love. Therefore, the ephod worn by the priests must represent God’s love!

Let’s see another example of this...

Colossians 3:11

¹¹ Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Paul is not giving a sociology lesson. Instead, he’s pointing out the source of their DIVISION! In the verses that follow, he’s going to explain what it takes to intervene (mediate) such disputes.

Colossians 3:12–14

¹² 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.

The thing that enables us to settle disputes, particularly those caused by race, ethnicity or class, is to put on love. In fact, love is the ‘bond’ that holds us all together. (Some people are terrible mediators because they’re always interjecting race, ethnicity or class. These things will never bring us together. Only love can do that!)

Before we move, I want to point out something important in verse 10.

Colossians 3:10

¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Notice how Paul mentions ‘renewing our minds’ in the SAME context as ‘putting on’ the new man. This tells us that “putting on” the new man requires that we adopt a new way of thinking! In fact, ANY piece of clothing we intend to put on will require a new way of thinking. We cannot change how we act until we FIRST change how we think!

Thus, the garments that we’re instructed to put on as priests are really instructions on how we must act AND think in order to discharge our duty as priests. With that in mind, let’s go back and assign a ‘mindset’ to the garments we’ve already mentioned.

a. The linen coat

In order to truly put on the linen coat we must change the way we see ourselves. Instead of seeing ourselves as sinners, we must see ourselves as a “new man (person).” Not only that, but we must also see ourselves as part of a new family (and nation) of priests!

b. The blue robe

Putting on the blue outer robe, not only means being endued (clothed) with the Spirit, it ALSO means walking in the mind of the Spirit!

Romans 8:5–7

⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

It's not enough to simply 'have' the Spirit. We must walk according to the mind of the Spirit. In fact, the reason many do not walk or operate in the Spirit is because they walk after the mind of the flesh!

c. The ephod

Putting on the ephod represents having the mind of Christ. You cannot 'put on love' without first having the 'mind of Christ!'

Philippians 2:3–5

³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

You will struggle to put on love until you train your mind to think like Christ, who put other's needs before His own. This same rule can be applied to ANY expression of love. You will struggle to be longsuffering, to forgive, and even be merciful until you FIRST train your mind to think like Christ!

Understand, putting on "new clothes" should cause you to take on a new identity or way of thinking. Don't expect to behave in a new way until you first train yourself to think in a new way.