

WHAT'S IN A NAME? | GET DRESSED

INTRO:

Romans 13:11–14 NIV

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: ***The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber***, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ ***Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ***, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- It's time to get up and get dressed.
- Through the series we're going to develop the ideas around getting dressed—putting on Christ, as Paul has mentioned here in [Romans 13:14](#):
 - RISE (several ways I've noted that we are to put on Christ')
 - Righteousness
 - Identity
 - Strength
 - Ethics (or everyday living)

INTRO ILLUSTRATION:

As a kid, running from chores I didn't want to do:

- I was reminded this was the 'Lewandowski' home.
- And my last name was Lewandowski.
 - The food in the fridge was ours and provided for.
 - The furniture was ours to enjoy, a bed provided to sleep in, a bathroom to use
 - The clothes I wore, I didn't have to earn, they were provided for.
- Therefore this was my house to take care of.
 - After eating, the dishes would need to be washed and trash taken out... guess what your last name is Lewandowski
 - After hanging out watching a movie or game, the living room would need to be cleaned...
 - After waking up in the morning in my bedroom, the bed would need to get made and the room cleaned from time to time...
 - The bathroom I used would get... dirty... and needed to be cleaned... guess what, your last name is Lewandowski...
 - The clothes provided for me, I wore and made dirty... I'd have to wash them. Not just my clothes, but the towels too!
 - I remember the first time the responsibility was given to me after complaining that I had nothing to wear!
 - The yard I loved to play in... guess what, the lawn needed to be mowed, and my last name was... Lewandowski.

- More than just privileges, provision, and responsibilities... there were expectations.
 - Lewandowski's are honest.
 - Lewandowski's are hard workers.
- Note:
 - I didn't get to choose my last name.
 - I also didn't have to earn that last name, but there were expectations, standards to live by.
 - The responsibilities to obey came from the relationship and belonging, not to earn the relationship.
 - Also note, that like a good father, everything my father had belonged to all of us. He paid for that house, but it was 'our house'.
- Track with me:
 - The name/identity came from relationship to my parents.
 - The name/identity came with privileges, provisions & responsibilities.
 - The name came from purpose and significance.
 - Matthew = gift of God
 - I had been reminded all my early years that I was the Lord's gift to my parents.
 - They were told they wouldn't have more children after a terrible miscarriage.

IN THE BIBLE, I OFTEN SEE PEOPLE WITH NAMES:

- That are loaded with purpose
- That are given through relationship
- That are connected to a promise
- That sometimes get changed.

EXAMPLES:

- I notice Paul identifies himself often in and through his relationship with Christ. ([Romans 1:1](#) - servant, called, set apart for)
- Simon (Peter) receives a name change when Jesus first calls him ([John 1:42](#)) and later gets the name reaffirmed ([Matthew 16:18](#)).
- Jacob was named such for the name derives from the Hebrew word for "heel" because he grasped Esau's heel at birth. After Jacob defrauded Esau of his birthright and blessing, Esau declared the name fit him perfectly. Jacob received his new name—Israel—from the Angel of the Lord with whom he wrestled at Peniel. The angel of the Lord explained the name change by saying Jacob had "struggled with God and with men and prevailed." ([Genesis 32:28](#))
- The Lord changes Abram's name to Abraham to match the promise that was yet to be fulfilled ([Genesis 17:5](#)).
- The Lord calls Gideon a 'mighty warrior' even while he was hiding out in a winepress ([Judges 6:12](#)).
- Jesus, the greatest name (Yeshua), means 'Yahweh is Salvation' or 'Yahweh has Saved'

Matthew 1:21 NIV

²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

1: OUR IDENTITY COMES FROM CHRIST

A: IT'S PART OF BEING A NEW CREATION

- [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
- The old identity is gone, the old name, like Jacob has been replaced with the name the Lord has for us.
- Past sins no longer define you, God’s grace and God’s word do!

B: IT COMES BY WAY OF ADOPTION

- [Romans 8:15–16](#) “15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”
- [Ephesians 1:5](#) “he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—”

C: IT COMES THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

- [Romans 1:1](#) “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—”
- [John 15:15–16](#) “15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

PUT IT TOGETHER:

- In Christ:
 - You are brand new (not simply tweaked or improved)
 - You are family — God’s sons and daughters — therefore heirs.
 - You are loved by God
 - You are now friends of God
-

2: OUR IDENTITY COMES WITH PRIVILEGES, PROMISES & PROVISIONS

A: PRIVILEGES

- [Galatians 4:6-7](#) “6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.”
- [Hebrews 4:16](#) “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
 - This passage is dealing with Christ as our great high priest... but how much more so as his children!?
- Sons and daughters have access to their fathers that strangers and servants don’t.

B: PROVISIONS (& PROMISES)

- [Ephesians 1:3](#) “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”
- [Philippians 4:19](#) “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”
- [2 Peter 1:3](#) “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”
- Children have the promise of their father’s provision, care, and blessings.
- You don’t have to worry about it, your father has it.

PUT IT TOGETHER:

- Because you are a child of God (by way of adoption through this great salvation).
 - You have an imperishable inheritance awaiting you in heaven.
 - You are loved specially by God as his child.
 - You have access to him that strangers don’t.
 - You have precious promises for eternity, but also for now — he will provide for all of your needs

3: OUR IDENTITY COMES WITH PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

A: PURPOSE, SIGNIFICANCE, & RESPONSIBILITIES

- [Jeremiah 1:5](#) “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”
- [1 Peter 2:9](#) “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

- [Ephesians 2:10](#) “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
- You do have to care for the things he entrusts you with.
- You do have to do the family business (build up his kingdom) — not in order to earn anything, but because you already belong and because you want to please your father.
- You do have good works that he created you to do and a purpose that he created for!
 - Like Esther, you were born for such a time as this! ([Esther 4:14](#))
- You are to declare his praises — live lives of worship unto his glory

PUT IT TOGETHER:

- You have responsibilities that come from being in the family — chores to do, business to advance, even wars to fight ([Eph 6:10-12](#)).

4: WHAT IS OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST?

A: WHAT IT ISN'T (Know who you're not, and not anymore)

- It's so important to recognize the lies of the enemy, the culture, and the lies we tell ourselves.
 - Some of the lies try to chain our identity to things like: (to name a few)
 - Our jobs/career (that's what you do, not who you are)
 - Our financial assets
 - Our current “ability to contribute to society” (that's an ever changing value)
 - Our relationship status
 - Our physical health, image, or shape
 - Our reputation
 - Our political opinions and beliefs
 - Our ethnicity
 - Our intelligence level
 - [1 Samuel 16:7](#) “7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.””
- Further, we don't identify ourselves by our sins, struggles, or are failures — we're dead to those now — and raised anew in Christ Jesus.
- We also don't identify ourselves by what others have said about us. Rather, we're defined by Jesus' words and actions
 - What he said in his word.
 - What he demonstrated through his death and resurrection.

B: WHAT IT IS (DECLARED TO US IN HIS WORD) - Know who you are in Christ

- Saints ([Ephesians 1:1](#), [Romans 1:7](#))

- Not sinners (anymore) ([1 Cor 6:11](#))
- New Creation ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))
- Forgiven ([Colossians 2:13](#))
- Free From Sin ([Romans 6:6-7](#))
- Righteous ([2 Cor 5:21](#))
- Holy & set apart ([Hebrews 10:10](#), [Hebrews 10:14](#), [Colossians 3:12](#))
- Purified ([Titus 2:14](#))
- Redeemed ([Ephesians 1:7](#))
- Reconciled to God ([2 Corinthians 5:18-19](#))
- Temple of the Holy Spirit ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#))
- Citizens of Heaven ([Philippians 3:20](#))
- Friends of God ([John 15:15](#))
- Children of God ([1 John 3:1-2](#))
 - Heirs in Christ ([Romans 8:17](#))
 - Loved by God ([Romans 5:8](#))
 - Secure in Christ ([John 10:28-29](#))
 - Sealed with the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 1:13](#))
- Purpose Filled ([Ephesians 2:10](#))
 - More than Conquerors ([Romans 8:37](#))
 - Ambassadors of Christ ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#))
 - Servants of God ([Romans 6:22](#))
 - Chosen & royal priesthood ([1 Peter 2:9](#))
 - Empowered and Equipped through the Holy Spirit ([Acts 1:8](#))

CLOSING RESPONSE:

[Romans 13:14](#) “Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.”

In Conclusion, we’ve been talking about getting dressed. Clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Last week, we talked about putting on Christ’s Righteousness as the garments we put on in order to meet God.
- Today we talked about clothing ourselves with Christ as our identity.
 - It means that we are to find our significance, value, and purpose in what he has said about us and demonstrated for us.
 - It’s choosing to see ourselves the way that He sees us.
 - It’s choosing to lay aside the name, significance, value that the world tries to give us and choose to find all of that in Christ and his word.

- Further, our identity in Christ is given to us, as sons and daughters adopted into the family.
 - It's not something that we earn
 - But it is something we live from.
 - Because we belong to God, we will conduct our lives in a way that brings him glory and honor.
 - If/when we fail — we don't lose our status in God's household. We don't get kicked out of the family.
 - Rather, he'll discipline us as a good father does.
 - He also picks us up, strengthens us, washes us, and restores us.

Remember the house I grew up in?

- I didn't choose the name Lewandowski — I was simply born into it.
- But your name is different. You weren't just born into this family; you were adopted into it. God chose to adopt you, and by faith you received his invitation.
- Still, you didn't earn this name, and you can't earn your place in this house. But once you've said yes, everything the Father has is yours to enjoy, and everything about how you live is meant to reflect who you now belong to.
- That's your life in Christ. You accepted this name when he called you. Now live like you believe it.