

FRESH CLOTHES | GET DRESSED

SERIES SCRIPTURE:

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've been developing 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 (the clothes we wear to stand before God — his righteousness)
 - Identity (who we are in Christ)
 - Strength
 - Ethics (or everyday living)

ILLUSTRATION:

The need to get clean and change clothes.

- Imagine its August 1996
 - I was 10 years old, about to enter a new school in a new town for 5th grade.
 - Only about 13-16% of the US had cellphones back then.
 - If you turned on the country radio station, George Strait's "Carried Away" was the top song — it's probably playing at some point of your drive.
 - That Sunday at church the worship team probably played that newer song everyone's falling in love with by some church band out of Australia — Hillsong's "Shout to the Lord"
 - The Green Bay Packers have been in training camp and are on their way to a Super Bowl winning season.
 - And the Brewers were terrible back then... Today's record would've been 55-62 (Not everything was better back then).
 - Now that I've got you nostalgic for a moment... I'm going to share an illustration (not a true one), but one that fits that golden age before cellphones season.
- Dusty (our main character) has been invited to a wedding — actually as a groomsman in his good friend's wedding.
 - The church is way out in the country on a dirt road, by way of several other dirt roads.
 - He's a little late getting started that morning, so he's in a rush
 - There's no cell phone to wake him up or to grab and take along with him (relevant detail)

- He grabs the rented tux and throws it in his truck ('92 f150 - only averaging 13 mpg)
- Planned on changing and getting ready with the guys in the church basement
- Importantly, he wasn't paying attention to his gas gauge that morning until it was too late, the light was on, but he hadn't been paying attention — he was blasting George Strait too loud to see clearly.
- Way out on Road X, on the way to the church he officially runs out of gas. (can't call for help)
 - He sees a farm way up the road, so he starts walking
 - It's already 85 degrees that morning and the temperature is rising
 - He's starting to sweat profusely when the weather turns and a downpour happens
 - Road X, being made of dirt, quickly gets muddy
 - Not paying attention he steps into an unexpectedly deep pothole that was filled with rainwater and trips.
 - Worst case scenario, he falls into a pile of manure that fell off/out of some farmer's cattle trailer due to the same deep pothole.
 - Ope, and now the sun's back out and the gosh darn humidity is out of control
- Dusty is now
 - Late
 - Sweaty
 - Drenched
 - Muddy
 - Covered in manure, his instinct to wipe his hands off was realized to be a terrible mistake once he discovered the mud wasn't actually mud.
- He makes it to the farmer up the road who loans him some gas, eventually enabling him to make it to the church.
 - He's way late, but can still make it for the wedding.
- What does Dusty do next?
 - He needs to get ready for the wedding.
 - Does he only wash his hands and face?
 - Does he put his tux on over his dirty clothes and spray some old spice cologne on?
 - OR
 - Embarrassed as he was, head over to the parsonage and ask to use the shower
 - After cleaning up — he puts on fresh clothes — the finest rented tux his \$75 could get.
- This may seem like a waste of time telling that story, other than the golden bit of nostalgia right?
 - Of course you get clean and put on fresh clothes — especially when you're standing up in your friend's wedding.
 - Of course Dusty would've listened to George Strait and NOT the Macarena which was also topping the charts at the time
 - Unless he was listening to the training camp reports on the radio because da pack was back.

- To the point of the big idea here, you would never put a tux on OVER nasty smelly clothes (unless maybe your in jr high)
- But isn't it just as ridiculous when Christians don't want to 'change their clothes' after finding Christ?
 - They fell into a mess (we all have) — their own fault (sin) plus some circumstances beyond themselves (life's hard hand and difficulties).
 - They discover the saving, cleansing grace of Jesus — His righteousness given by grace through faith.
 - Only to put back on the nasty garments — soaked in their own filth and grime.
 - Thinking that they can throw a clean shirt or jacket on over the top
 - One that at a distance makes them look the part, but up close the odor and filth can't be hidden.
 - To put it as eloquently as I can... that ain't right.
- To be clear:
 - I'm talking about the change of behavior and lifestyle.
 - I opened the first week mentioning that clothing can often have the biblical imagery of righteousness and works.
 - The difference between this message and that one is that we need Christ's righteousness in order to be saved (part one), but the ongoing proof/results/evidence that we are saved is that the fruit of our lives changes.
 - Sticking with the clothing metaphor... the clothes change.
 - New garments for a new you.
 - New behaviors that reflect Christ's work in our lives — that reflect him.
 - This is the "E" in our RISE acronym — ethics or everyday living.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Colossians 3:1-17 NIV

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.** ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave

you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues ***put on love***, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1: THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

- **NOTE: A born again believer**
 - Has died with Christ
 - Has been raised with Christ
 - Their life is now hidden with Christ in God
 - Is being renewed in Christ
 - **NOTICE THE TENSES (MIXTURE OF PAST AND PRESENT)**
 - You have been raised
 - For you died
 - Life is now hidden
 - Put to death
 - Rid yourselves
 - You haven taken off your old self
 - You have put on the new self
 - Therefore... clothe yourselves
 - Put on love
 - **THERE'S AN ALREADY/NOT YET TENSION**
 - You have already been saved, but you must work it out .
 - The old man has died, but you must crucify the flesh daily with its passions and desires
 - You have been made holy, but you must be renewed and transformed into his image — live and be holy.
 - **THEREFORE:**
 - The old man has died, but his desires and habits have to be put to death continually and there is an ongoing work of ridding ourselves of such practices.
 - The new man is being renewed in the knowledge of Christ.
 - We are to know him
 - We are to be transformed into his image
 - We are to put on the character traits and obedience that reflect his character and image.
 - **You've got to change your clothes.**
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2: PUT TO DEATH THE OLD MAN — TAKE OFF HIS DIRTY CLOTHES

- **PAUL WRITES:** To put off the old self — take off the old sinful dirty garment.
 - Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature.
 - Not merely ‘to put away,’ but mortify, put to death that which is earthly — the sinful nature and its desires.
 - [Colossians 3:5](#) “5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”
 - **Sexual immorality - [porneia] - sexual immorality; fornication**
 - Generally applied, referring to all forms of illicit sexual conduct
 - **Impurity - [akatharsia] - impurity; uncleanness**
 - Used here describing a state of spiritual and moral contamination that extends beyond physical acts to include mental and emotional corruption.
 - The general defilement that follows sexual sin
 - **Lust [pathos] & Evil desire [epithymia]**
 - Melick (NAC) notes that these two words belong together rather than entirely separate issues.
 - “When lust goes unchecked, a passion for what is forbidden arises. Habits are formed which feed each other. Lust encourages passion, and passion produces more perverted lust.”
 - **Covetousness (greediness) - [pleonexia], which is idolatry [eidololatria]**
 - Scholars note that coveting isn't a minor character flaw, it's spiritual idolatry, giving to money or possessions the devotion that belongs to God.
 - Some note the correlation:
 - The first commandment is to have no other gods before the lord
 - The tenth commandment is the first restated when it says ‘do not covet’
 - **OBSERVE:**
 - Notice that sexual sin is addressed first in almost every list Paul gives.
 - There seems to be a progression in the first list from outer action to inner motives that Paul is addressing.
 - All of it needs to be mortified.
 - [Colossians 3:8–9](#) “8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices”
 - **Anger** - [orge] - wrath, anger — its the simmer, steady burn
 - **Rage** - [thymos] - explosive anger or outbursts of anger — its the boiling over
 - **Malice** - [kakia] - wickedness; evil; malice
 - Used here it goes further than anger, its the ill-intent/desire to injure
 - **Slander** - [blasphemia] - blasphemy; slander; profane speech
 - Blasphemy would be against God
 - Here it's slander or the malicious talk in order to damage another's reputation
 - **Filthy language** - [aischrologia] - abusive, language, vile conversation

- Obscene/filthy talk
- OR a vulgar insult
- **Lies** - [pseudomai] - lie; cheat; beguile
 - Or grammatically: STOP LYING (to each other)
- **THESE COMMANDS ARE TO THE CHURCH, NOT MERELY TO INDIVIDUALS**
 - Not only are we new creations but we are a community of people being made new
 - Therefore this list, particularly the second one is about how we are to NOT treat each other.
 - The community of God should look different. (City on a hill)
 - This community exhortation is seen also in what we are to 'put on.'
- **Think about our friend Dusty for a moment.**
 - His soiled garments weren't fitting for the occasion and the community.
 - These works, ways, and habits that Paul listed are sinful and have no place in the community of faith.
 - But we don't merely try to cover them up with a jacket or coat with a few good things.
 - We need fresh clothes. Virtues to put on that go along with Christ's purifying and sanctifying work.
 - Clothes/actions that fit the occasion and community.

3: THE NEW MAN WITH NEW CLOTHES

[Colossians 3:12-14](#) "12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

NOTE: Again, the command to clothe yourselves is to the church. All of us are to put these new garments on.

- **Compassion** - [splanchnon oiktirmos] - 'bowels of mercy'
 - It's compassion that moves you physically
 - Not polite, surface level kindness
- **Kindness** - [chrestotes] - goodness; kindness, excellence; goodness of heart
 - Active goodness, giving someone what they need rather than just feeling nice things towards them.
- **Humility** - [tapeinophrosyne] humility; lowliness of mind
 - This command was so countercultural to the Roman-Greco world
 - Culturally this was something viewed as weak and demeaning even shameful
 - Jesus modeled this and made it a virtuous and excellent character trait in His community of faith.
- **Gentleness** - [prautes] - gentleness; meekness; humility

- Its power restrained, not powerless
- Its using the least amount of force as necessary
- **Patience - [makrothymia] - patience; forbearance; long-suffering**
 - Interesting, the word is built from 'makros' (long) and 'thymos' (same word for explosive anger)
 - Together is carries the idea of long suffering
 - Rick Renner illustrates it as a candle with an unusually long wick.
 - One Bible dictionary applies it to 'patience with people' rather than hypomonē for 'patience with circumstance'
- **Bear with each other - [anechomai] - endure; bear with**
 - This is the ongoing, daily version of patience, ordinary tolerance of each other's flaws and quirks over time, not a one time act.
- **Forgive one another - [charizomai] - forgive; show favor; give freely; show kindness**
 - It shares the root word, 'charis' for grace
 - It's something that is given
 - Matthew Henry notes particularly that it seems Paul assumes the offended party is to take the first step.
 - Forgiveness here doesn't wait for an apology.
 - Especially in light of 'forgive as the Lord forgave you' — that speaks to the grace of the Lord that is to be present in his church.
- **Love - [agape] - love; affection; goodwill**
 - Notice Paul says it's the bond that ties them all together in perfect unity.
 - The word he uses for bond [syndesmos] is one that can describe a fastening (of ships together) or even the ligaments that hold parts of the body together.
 - In this context several commentators see the image of a band or girdle that gathers the other garments together.
 - Love isn't simply one more item on the list; it is what holds all the others together. Compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness are not meant to function as disconnected virtues.
 - Love binds them into a unified Christian character.
 - And its by our love for one another that we are to be known.
- **WEAR THESE NEW GARMENTS IN COMMUNITY (V15-17)**
 - Peace ruling in your hearts
 - Thankfulness becoming the overflow
 - Let the message of Christ be evident in your lives
 - And be a community of praise, encouragement, giving glory to Jesus

- **These virtues are to be like the clean, fresh clothes we put on.**
 - Like our friend Dusty, once getting cleaned up, put on a fine tux for the wedding.
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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.”

If you are in Christ.

- You have died with Christ
- You have been raised with Christ
- You are being made new in Christ
- You are called to put to death the earthly nature and sinful desires

Jesus does his part

- He rescues us
- He saves us
- He redeems us
- He makes us righteous, holy and good

Jesus calls us to follow him

- This requires us, demands us to repent and turn away from our sin.
- We’re not supposed to put on the old dirty clothes after getting cleaned up.
- We’re to put on the clothes that demonstrate that we belong to him and have been washed by him.

It wouldn’t have been fitting for Dusty

- To show up unwashed and still in his dirty clothes — he wouldn’t have been allowed in.
- And once he'd showered, he wasn't about to put those dirty clothes back on either, that would have been just as strange, throwing away the very cleanup he just went through — the high cost of Jesus’ shed blood.

Rather, Dusty, having been cleaned up, put on the clothes that fit the occasion.

Examine yourself today.

- Have you been cleaned up yet? If not, Jesus is the only remedy for sin.
- What garments are you wearing/put back on, that look like the stuff Paul and ultimately the Lord has told us to put to death or rid yourself of?
- What clothing items are you lacking, that Christ has provided, that you need to put on today?