

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Colossians – Christ Above All | Part 4: Dress for Success

**Theme of Colossians:** The absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as the Head of all creation and of the Church.

## Colossians 2:6-8 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. <sup>7</sup> Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup> Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

## Colossians 2:16-23 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. <sup>18</sup> Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, <sup>19</sup> and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.

<sup>20</sup> You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, <sup>21</sup> "Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? <sup>22</sup> Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. <sup>23</sup> These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.

**Followers of Jesus need only their faith to experience a deeper presence of God in their lives.**

**R. Kent Hughes**, *"The answer to legalism is the continual realization of the grace of Christ. The answer to mysticism is an understanding of how profoundly we are related to Christ. The answer to asceticism is the reckoning that we have died, been buried, and are resurrected with Christ. The answer is where it all began: at the foot of the cross."*

- 1. Our death in Christ releases us from the law (2:16-23)**
  - a. We are free from the shackles of reputation (2:16,18)**
  - b. We are free from the bondage of religion (2:16-19)**
  - c. We are free from the chains of regulations (2:20-23)**

*"If people practice various forms of abstinence and find their spiritual health improved thereby, that is their own responsibility. But if they make their abstinence a matter of boasting, and if they try to impose it on others, they are wrong."* (F. F. Bruce, "The Colossian Heresy, Part 3 of Colossian problems," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 141, July-September 1984:205)

Christians have complete freedom in Christ. Jesus alone is our source of life and our freedom is found in him alone.

## 2. Our faith in Christ raises us to new life (3:1-4)

### Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT) Living the New Life

<sup>1</sup> Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

- a. Jesus redirects life's pursuits (3:1)
- b. Jesus reshapes life's perspectives (3:2)
- c. Jesus redefines life's purpose (3:3-4)

**Our mind-set is a deliberate act of the will.**

Dr. Warren Wiersbe, "After all, it does little good if Christians *declare* and *defend* the truth, but fail to *demonstrate* it in their lives."

### Colossians 3:5-11 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. <sup>6</sup> Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. <sup>8</sup> But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. <sup>10</sup> Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. <sup>11</sup> In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

- ### 3. We must cleanse ourselves from sinfulness (3:5-11)
- a. We must put to death our sinful passions (3:5-7)
  - b. We must put off our sinful practices (3:8-10)
  - c. We must put down our sinful pride (3:11)

### 4. We must clothe ourselves in Godliness (3:12-17)

<sup>12</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

- a. Dress in a way that we might accurately reflect our savior (3:12-14)
- b. Dress in a way that we might comfortably rest in our Savior (3:15)

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

**c. Dress in a way that we might gratefully rejoice in our Savior (3:16)**

<sup>16</sup>Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

**d. Dress in a way that we might actively run for our Savior (3:17)**

<sup>17</sup>And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.