



Title: Ephesians – Change Your Clothes

Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-32

Date: 03/05/2023

Bible Version: NLT

BOTTOM LINE: The gospel story should impact and reshape your life story.

The Warning

17 With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. 19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

- The warning is, don't pattern yourself after the world, if you're a believer, don't walk in the ways of unbelief.
- Paul paints a picture of the downward spiral that can occur when we continue to wander away from God.
- Those who continue to wander away from God slowly find their conscience becomes desensitized, their mind becomes dark and eventually it leads to a harden heart and reckless life.
 1. Who am I?
 2. Why am I here?
- You were made by GOD for GOD (Colossians 1:16). Therefore, walk in the ways of God.

"The Christian cannot pattern himself after the unsaved person, because the Christian has experienced a miracle of being raised from the dead. His life is not futile, but purposeful. His mind is filled with the light of God's Word, and his heart the fullness of God's life." – Warren Wiersbe

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

- Culture is not our enemy - it's our mission field. Our lives should radiate light in a dark world.

The Wardrobe

20 But that isn't what you learned about Christ. 21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

- Through salvation God makes you clean on the inside and He wants you to match on the outside too.
- As believers we are made a new creation, so we must put off the old way and put on our new wardrobe.

1. **Spiritually Renew Your Mind:** Change your thinking, change your life.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2

"We don't have the power to change our hearts. But we do have the power to change our minds. If I stop justifying that activity or that habit – if I change my mind, God will change my heart." Jon Courson

- Renewing your mind involves meditating on God's Word and refreshing your heart with His promises.
- We should be renewed in the mind daily, always ready to combat the lies of the world with God's truth.

“It is only when we have grasped clearly who we are in Christ that the desire will grow within us to live a life that is worthy of our calling and fitting to our character as God’s new society.” - John Stott

2. **Display your New Wardrobe:** Live out of your Christ-Centered identity.

- The devil is a liar, but Jesus is the truth. In Him, we truly are a new creation and the old identity is gone!
- Righteousness in Christ is like changing your clothes and putting on new, clean, and refreshing clothes. It is not legalism, it brings life, joy, and well-being.
- The reality of the gospel allows us to live in freedom and joy, not shame and guilt.
- Paul is reminding us to pursue practically, what is already true of us positionally, we are HOLY in Christ.
- When you start with a Christ-centered identity it helps lead to the habits and disciplines that reinforce that identity.

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The Way

25 So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. 26 And “don’t sin by letting anger control you. ”Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. 29 Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. 30 And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

- Your new wardrobe and Christ-centered identify should impact your relationships and the WAY you walk in this world.
- Turn from your old way of walking (lying, stealing, anger, foul language) and walk in your new way (truth, generosity, encouragement, and honoring to God).
- Don’t harbor anger and resentment. Satan is looking for every opportunity to take ground in your life.
- There is peace and joy when we walk in the ways of the Lord.

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” - C.S. Lewis

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: The gospel story should impact and reshape your life story.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



1. How can we live in this world without being patterned after it?
2. What should be our motivation to live for God?
3. Who does God say you are? How does your life reflect this truth?
4. What can you do practically this week to spiritually renew your mind?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that were studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.