

“Laying Aside Those *Old Clothes*” Colossians 3:5-9

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A person only gets one chance at making a good first impression. With this in mind I believe that the first impression should be the very best one we can make. There are clothes which best enhance our particular build: tall, short, heavy, thin, etc. There are also colors which would enhance the colors of our skin, eyes, hair and complexion too. There are certain outfits which we would not wear, but would “put off.” These are the ones which would not flatter our appearance, and would in fact present ourselves in a bad image. Clothes do make the person!

It is that way with our new spiritual life. Certain things belonging to the flesh and not the Spirit we should now have nothing to do with. We should in fact put them off, no longer wearing them as a garment.

Let us first “put to death” the earthly members –Col. 3:5-7. We who are now dead to the world and its lusts and risen with Christ need to get off the old clothes so we can put on the new ones. We should not be wearing two sets of clothes at the same time. We were at one time “children of disobedience” (Ephes. 2:1-5), but not anymore! We are supposed to be getting dressed for a glorious appearance with our Savior in Glory –Col. 3:4! So let’s get ready!

The command is to “**mortify**” (put to death) the following list:

Fornication – Immorality, stay pure to our Savior and our spouses alone.

Uncleanness – Impurity, as our God favors a clean vessel -2 Tim 2:21.

Inordinate Affection – A lustful sexual passion used wrongfully.

Evil Concupiscence – Wicked forbidden desire (wanting what isn’t ours to have according to God’s ordinance).

Covetousness which is Idolatry – Fraudulent greediness (equated with idolatry – This should be a warning to those who would gamble or play the lottery regularly!)

Why do we put to death these practices? The following two verses answer that question: “*For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.*” –Col. 3:6-7

Here are some earthly clothes we can now “put off” –Col. 3:8:

Anger – Violent passion having to do with wrathful vengeance.

Wrath – Fierce passionate indignation.

Malice – Evil malignity in slanderous form.

Blasphemy – Evil speaking and railing against God.

Filthy Communication – Vile conversation (proceeding from the mouth).

Lie Not (to one another) – We are now bearers of THE TRUTH.



Why do we put off all these? Because they are part of the “*old man (self)*” and the “*deeds*” of the old life –Col. 3:9. Further, the new command is to “*...put on the new man (self), which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*” –Col. 3:10. We should not be wearing the old clothes anymore, but the new ones God clothes us with as we are being renewed daily in his image --2 Corinth. 4:16.

A man drafted into service in the Civil War had relatives and friends on both Union and Confederate sides of the conflict. When asked how he would handle this dilemma upon engagement he replied: “I’ll wear both blue pants and a gray shirt.”

What was the result? When he ended up in the battle, he was shot both in the pants and the shirt!

We cannot wear both the old and the new spiritual clothes anymore!

*Oh the best thing in my life I ever did do
Was to take off the old robe and put on the new.
Oh the old robe was dirty, all tattered and torn;
But the new robe was spotless and never been worn.
Oh the best thing in my life I ever did do
Was to take off the old robe and put on the new!*



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