

## WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

What are you wearing? I know, it is a strange/weird question, especially over the internet! But again, what are you wearing?

COVID-19 has affected many things. It has even affected our fashion sense and even more so, our idea of casual Friday attire!

A few examples:

- Maryland police had to remind residents that they must wear pants when they go out to get their mail! Really!
- Daily attire now consists of morning or evening pajamas, or business attire from the waist up for video meetings.
- Buying cars, groceries, going to the bank or doctor all happen in pajamas, or other!
- What does “dressing for success” even mean anymore?

So again, what are you wearing? How has COVID-19 affected your attire?

Colossians 3:12-17

*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.*

In our passage, the apostle Paul writes an encouraging message about “how to clothe” ourselves as believers in the world. COVID-19 has affected our spiritual attire as well as our physical attire. Many of us have started living in “spiritual pajamas” or less! So now I will ask you, what are you wearing spiritually? Let’s open the closet of Colossians 3 and see what we should be putting on for clothes.

**Verse 12** – attributes of believers, followers of Christ, those wanting to dress up to go out.

Putting these on (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience) is a deliberate choice to get dressed. Many of us enjoy our pajama or sweats, but Paul reminds us of the need to get up every morning, pick out clothes, and wear them for the kingdom!

It is like waking up and dressing for Michigan spring. We put on layers and when we wear those layers, we are war, dry, comfortable, and ready to tackle anything. Open the closet and put on the attributes of a child of God.

**Verse 13** – application.

We get dressed to face the challenges of the day. We dress differently for different situations. Working, running, hunting, swimming, and more calls us to deliberately choose attire to succeed. Paul challenges us to apply a dress code for living in which we accept, forgive, care, and support each other – dressing in a way that fits our lives in relationship with others. We apply a dress code for life that Jesus modeled for us on the runway of His life, death, and resurrection.

**Verse 14** – adamant!!!

Do you remember rain ponchos? I had one for a long time. I would sit out in rainstorms in my poncho because it covered everything. Paul is adamant that if you are going to wear anything, wear LOVE! Love covers all those attributes in verse 12 and binds them together. A poncho of love allows the other layer to work their magic and create an environment of unity and possibility.

I remember wearing those poncho/capes on football sidelines. They covered me up from head to toe, keeping me warm, ready to perform, and fight for a win! Love pulls all the pieces together in unity, creating power for victory.

**Verses 15-16** – agenda.

Dressing kids is an adventure! Joe would have worn the same clothes every day. Marley had to match and cut all tags off.

Dressing kids is a battle of agendas, ours or theirs. The same battle of agendas exists between us and God. We, as the “children”, must decide (be deliberate) if God can dress us? Will we allow the peace of Christ to rule hearts and the message of Christ dwell in us?

Will we worry about tags, or not allow change? Will we put on what we think is best? Or can we humble ourselves so we can be covered with peace, hope and a message open and honest relationships that transform our appearance? Dressing for success means allowing “the Designer” to do His work and put His outfit on us.

**Verse 17** – adoration.

Do you have a favorite sports team or college? Do you have a hat, shirt, jacket that you wear to show your pride/support? The reason we need to dress the way Paul outlines is to show our love and commitment to Christ. We are sold out supports of a living God who should receive all the glory, honor, and praise for giving the world hope and unconditional love. The way we dress, the layers we put on, bring attention, not only to us, but more so to Christ. Let’s be honest. Pajamas say one thing and GQ says another. Let’s be G.Q. (God Qualities) as we walk into our world every day.

So again, what are you wearing!?

