



IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
SERIES: NEW
TITLE: NEW CLOTHES
SCRIPTURE: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17
DATE: AUG. 30, 2025

INTRODUCTION

We continue our “New” series, and our third lesson is titled “New Clothes.”

Throughout the Bible, there are several recurring analogies used to describe spiritual growth. Sometimes, growth is pictured as an infant maturing into adulthood. For example, we are described as craving spiritual milk or being tossed around like immature children. But the goal is to grow into maturity—able to withstand waves and ready for solid food (see Eph. 4:14; Hebrews 5:11-14; 1 Peter 2:2).

Other times, the Christian life is portrayed as a journey or walk. We're told to walk the straight and narrow path—or to run and not grow weary (Ephesians 5:1,15; Matthew 7:13-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-25; Hebrews 12:1). Growth is also compared to the development of a plant or the construction of a building (1 Corinthians 3:5-15).

The analogy we're focusing on today is that of clothing. We are to clothe ourselves with righteousness. Imagine walking into a dressing room and exchanging old, worn-out clothes for brand-new ones. You take off the old and put on the new. Spiritually, we put off sin and put on righteousness.

Icebreaker Questions

- What is the oldest piece of clothing in your closet that you still wear?
- How do you feel when you wear something new for the first time?

Text

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Explanation:

CONTEXT

Colossians is a relatively short letter—just four chapters. Paul writes to a church he has not visited personally, but one he has heard about. His desire is that they would reach maturity in Christ (Col. 1:28). He wants them to walk in Christ and be fully rooted in Him (Col. 2:6–7).

Up to this point, Paul has described who Christ is—providing one of the most eloquent passages about Jesus' divine nature (Colossians 1:15–23). He has what happens spiritually at our salvation (Colossians 2:8–15) He encouraged

believers to engage in spiritual disciplines that foster growth. Paul also warns that some religious practices may appear wise but are ultimately useless in defeating sinful desires (Colossians 2:16–23).

Now, in chapter 3, Paul shifts from theological to practical. Having laid the theological foundation for transformation, he now calls believers to demonstrate that transformation outwardly.

In Colossians 3:5 Paul writes: “*Put to death whatever is earthly in you...*” His point is clear: since we have died and been raised with Christ (Col. 3:1–4), we are now empowered to put sin to death. He lists sins such as sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, covetousness, idolatry—and then adds relational sins like anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk. No sin is excused. Whether internal or external, private or public, we are called to take it off like old clothing—and put on something new.

PUT ON

In Colossians 3:17, Paul’s lists many righteous qualities to put on including: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, forgiving one another. He adds that we are to put on love, peace is to rule our hearts, and thankfulness. Several observations stand out:

1. These qualities focus on relationships. Paul urges believers to “put on” characteristics that foster healthy, godly relationships—compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. He emphasizes bearing with and forgiving one another, and loving above all.
2. They reflect general character, not just specific actions. Rather than give a checklist of do’s and don’ts, Paul calls for inner transformation. These are qualities of the heart and mind—attitudes we carry into every situation.
3. Some qualities are directed toward God. We are to be thankful to God, let His Word dwell in us, and do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

GOD’S CHOSEN ONES, HOLY AND BELOVED

In verse 5, Paul uses three words to describe how God view us—*chosen, holy, and beloved*. These terms carry deep theological weight. It would be easy to believe we follow God only out of fear, imagining a distant and angry deity

watching for mistakes. But Paul reminds us of the truth: though God is just and wrathful toward sin, He is also full of grace, choosing sinners to be His beloved through Christ.

This is amazing grace. We, who once stood condemned, are now called chosen, holy, and beloved. That is the greatest status reversal a person could experience. Christians are made new by God—not by their own merit, but by His grace.

That's why we "put on" righteousness—not out of fear of punishment but out of love and gratitude. God's ways are good for us. He has given us a new nature capable of righteousness. He has done for us what we could never do for ourselves.

DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS

This phrase sums up everything Paul has said: *"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."*

The command to do everything *in Jesus name* may sound confusing. This doesn't mean saying Jesus' name before every action. It means living in a way that represents Jesus—doing everything as if for Him, under His authority, and in His likeness. Jesus is King. He has commanded our obedience—and when we obey, we do so for Him.

Think again about the list of virtues: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, and above all, love. These aren't always easy to "put on," especially when someone sins against us or mistreats us.

But our righteousness isn't dependent on how others treat us. We don't respond kindly only when someone deserves it. We act righteously because God has treated us righteously. He has been compassionate, patient, humble, and forgiving toward us—and we are to treat others in the same way.

We put on these new clothes in Jesus' name.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stands out to you about this list compared to the list of sins in Colossians 3:5–11?
- Which righteous quality do you most need to “put on” right now?
- What are some things you’re most thankful for?
- Is your motivation for obeying God more driven by fear, thankfulness, or a mix of both?
- Paul uses three words to describe how God sees us: *chosen*, *holy*, *beloved*. What do these words mean to you?
- Do you treat people how you want to be treated—or how you think they deserve to be treated?
- Can you think of a time when someone loved you in Jesus’ name when you didn’t deserve it?
- Paul says to do *everything* in Jesus’ name. On a scale from 1–10, how committed are you to doing everything?

CONCLUSIONS/APPLICATIONS

GOD HAS MADE YOU NEW

God’s expectations for us are high. Some might even be tempted to say they’re impossible: “Do everything in the name of Jesus.” Put on all these righteous qualities—even in difficult relationships.

But don’t forget—God has made you new.

You are no longer who you once were. You are chosen, holy, and beloved. You weren’t born with the power to live this way, but God has given you a new nature. By His grace, you *can* put on these righteous characteristics. You *can* forgive. You *can* love. You *can* be kind.

Not because of your strength—but because God has made you new.