

Ephesians 4:20-24
“Church Clothes: Fashion that Never Fades”

LET'S PRAY -

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO Ephesians 4...

- I've titled today's message: **“Church Clothes: Fashion That Never Fades**

INTRO -

NOW SOME CHURCHES HAVE A DRESS CODE IN ORDER TO ATTEND

- You'd walk in and see everyone wearing their sunday best suit and tie
 - Early Church - you'd walk into a church and see tunics
 - But they showed up willing and humble
- Middle Ages - Suddenly everyone coming to church looks like they are attending a royal wedding.
 - The Idea was that the more fabric the better
- The Renaissance - Lace, ribbon and tights - a mix of fashion, vanity, and a little mild suffering.
 - All of this uncomfortability to look presentable at church
- Victorian Era - The popular style was puffy clothing
 - Some of their dresses had so many layers that it was not uncommon for women to faint in the middle service.
 - All of this to sit in a non-airconditioned building in summer
- So all throughout history people have deemed it a requirement to be uncomfortable in order to come to church
 - They made a requirement for what was acceptable to wear at church that the bible never gave in the first place
 - Believe it or not the bible does actually prescribe what to wear
 - Colossians 3:12-14 NLT
 - Styles and fashions made change over time, but character doesn't
 - God wants you to be men and women of character

THERE IS THE GREAT AMERICAN PROVERB:

- “Don't dress for the Job you have, dress for the job you want”
 - Well here's a dress code for your life!

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IDEA 1 - Its a Choice

(READ V.20-24)

IN THIS PASSAGE WE FOLLOW 3 MOVEMENTS:

1. We are to throw off our old sinful nature
2. God is transforming our thoughts and attitudes
3. Put on our new nature given to us by God

THE GREEK WORD USED FOR PUT ON IS ENDYO - [En-doo-o]

- It literally translates to clothing oneself or sinking into clothing
 - The idea is to “Change into” a different kind of conduct

REMEMBER WITH ME JESUS RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

- Luke 11:39, 43-44 NLT
 - Jesus no longer wanted this man to walk around in grave clothes because he was no longer dead
 - And God doesn't want you to walk around living lives of deceit and lust because he has given you spiritual life

THERE ARE SOME OCCUPATIONS WHERE YOU NEED TO CHANGE

- Imagine working on Septic tanks all day...
 - That smell is going to rub off on everything!
 - [Construction - Asbestos sticks to you]
 - Principle: Your sinful nature has massive impacts on the spiritual health of those around you

THE BATTLE IS IN YOUR MIND

- The antidote is operating in our spiritual nature in the presence of God
 - Galatians 5:16-17 NLT
 - Both of our natures are at war within us
 - Christ has given us a new nature, a higher nature

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- On December 17th, 1903 the Wright brothers made history by flying the first ever airplane.
 - By doing so they did not break the law of gravity, Instead they were operating under another law...
 - The law of aerodynamics which is a higher law

IDEA 2 - Transforming our Attitudes

(READ V.20-23)

PAUL MAKES A POINT HERE:

- It's better highlighted in the NKJV where he says “You have not so learned Christ.”
 - Paul did not say ‘learn about Christ’ because it is possible to learn about Christ and not be saved.
 - So Paul reminds the believers that following Jesus is not about knowing the truth, but living the truth!
 - Its not about information, Its about transformation

OUR PART IS TO MAKE THE CHOICE TO PUT ON OUR NEW NATURE

- But it's God's part to transform us and change our minds and attitudes
 - Romans 12:1-2 NLT
 - It's not a dead sacrifice...
 - It's a daily choice!
 - It's God who is doing the work of transforming you into the person He wants you to become!
 - Worship is not a genre of music but rather its a lifestyle of obedience and surrender to God!

BACK IN OUR STUDY IN EPHESIANS 4

- The amplified bible puts it, “Be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind”
 - It is a continual process of the Lord molding and shaping you
 - Self-reformation is not something that the bible tells us to do nor does it work. His desire is to transform our lives
 - Luke 11:24-26 NLT

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I WANT TO CHANGE OUR PERSPECTIVE ON SOMETHING

- And at times someone will come up and say ‘I slipped into sin this week’
 - Instead recognize that ‘I made the choice to sin.’
 - It moves away from this victim mentality
 - Key: that these daily choices will set the course for the direction of our lives!

(READ V.22-24)

IDEA 3 - The Fresh Fit

THE DIRECTION OF OUR LIVES IS DETERMINED BY THE CHOICES OF OUR DAYS

- Our new clothes are designed to make us look like Christ
 - When you become a Christian you now have a target on your back
 - EPHESIANS 6:10-17 NLT
 - And notice how he said put on the whole armor of God
 - Why? Because you make yourself vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy!

[Marvel Iron Man 3 Illustration]

- Put on the armor of God so that you can stand against the attacks of the enemy!
 - Hebrews 12:1 NLT

IN THE 1970s IN WEST BENGAL INDIA ONE OF THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH WAS FROM TIGER ATTACKS

- This was a huge problem that the people in this region faced
 - But in the 80s these people started to wear masks
 - This instantly decreased the amount of tiger attacks in the region
 - A major life or death problem in their lives was solved by the things they chose to wear
 - 1 Peter 5:8 NLT

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LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH THIS:

- God wants to transform your life but he is not forceful
 - We have to allow the Spirit to work upon our lives and our role is just as simple as putting on clothes
 - Clothe yourself compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and above all Love!

CALL WORSHIP UP

APPLICATION

THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN IS A RACE AND MY PRAYER IS THAT YOU WOULD RUN YOUR RACE WELL!

- Hebrews 12 - let us strip off every weight that slows us down
 - The junk that is in your life that you know is just a barrier and is hindering you from the Lord, cast it off
 - Let today be the day you choose Jesus and allow him to transform your thoughts and attitude

PRAY