

Who's Ready for a New Wardrobe?

Ricardo Campos, Teaching Elder Grace Chapel, Orange, CA March 28, 2010

Review:

Col. 1:1–14, Paul and Timothy thank God for the Colossians' fruitful walk. Thus, they pray that God will grant them further understanding of His will so that their walk will reach new heights as they thank God for delivering them from the power of darkness.

Col. 1:15–29, Christ, the Creator and sustainer of the entire universe, reconciled believers to God through His death in order to one day see them stand holy before Him as His Body. However, they must stay grounded in Him so that they will indeed bring glory to His Body.

Col. 2:1–10, Paul wants the Colossians to remain rooted in Christ and not be captivated by the world's empty philosophy because everything they need they already have in Christ, the Possessor of all wisdom and knowledge.

Col. 2:11–23, believers have been permanently united with Christ, the God of the universe. When this happened they were plucked from the world's body of sins and placed into the Body of Christ. This freed them from the world's deadly philosophy which once ruled them. In light of this, they should not go back and submit to man's futile philosophy (the world's dogma), which appears promising, but is of "no value."

Col. 3:1–11, Since we have been so thoroughly stripped of the Old Man (the world's body of sins) and have been clothed with the New Man (Christ's Body, the Church), we should think Christ's thoughts after Him and put away the Old Man's deeds (sins) because the New Man (where the only thing that matters is Christ) grows according to God's thinking not the world's.

I. Introduction

God showed His love for us in that through His Son's blood He took our old body away, the Old Man, the world's body of sin, and made us a permanent part of His Son's Body, the New Man, the Church. Since we are part of His Body now, what articles of clothing are we to wear on this new Body? We should be clothed with the utmost care and concern for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ all the while having an attitude of gratitude as the representatives of Christ that we are.

II. Since God Permanently United Us with Christ's Body, We Should Dress Appropriately (Col. 3:12–14)

God loves us so much that He be bled and died to strip us of the world's body of sins and placed on us a new Body, His own, where there is to be no schisms. In light of this, we should clothe our new Body with the proper attire, i.e., our utmost care and concern for our fellow brothers and sisters *in Christ*, while at all times undergirded by our love for them, which will guarantee our unity. This includes forgiving each other as Christ forgave us, i.e., always.

III. You need to be Dressed Appropriately *Inside* and Out (Col. 3:15–16)

Not only must we dress appropriately on the outside, we must also be on the inside. Thus, God wants us to always have an attitude of gratitude and unity, i.e., to let the peace He designed into Christ's Body be the doorkeeper of our hearts, to filter our every thought and action. He also wants what we've learned of Christ to dwell in us so thoroughly that it drives us to teach and admonish one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, causing us to sing with grace (thanks) in our heart to the Lord.

IV. Now that You're Dressed Appropriately, Behave Accordingly (Col. 3:17)

Since we are Christ's Body, i.e., His representatives here on earth, we are not only to wear the right uniform, but behave accordingly. Thus, we are to do everything, whether speech or action, in His name—as His ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20). All the while thanking God the Father for what He's done for us through His Son.

V. CONCLUSION

Once we realize that we've been placed into Christ's Body, that we are part of Him and have access to His wisdom and knowledge, we should strive to live accordingly. This means showing forgiving love and concern for the brethren while always having a heart of unity and thanksgiving.