

7

New Lifestyle

Colossians 3:12-17

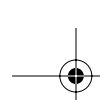
Marathon runners not only shed anything that might slow them down, they also dress carefully. They choose the best running shoes and the most comfortable shorts and shirt. Golfers wear visors to protect their eyes from the sun and spiked shoes to keep them from slipping while hitting the ball. Taking part in different hobbies and social groups requires specific dress and behavior.

GROUP DISCUSSION. When you were a child, what was one behavior your parents insisted on just because you were a member of their family?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Think of a Christian whose life you admire. What character qualities attract you? What role does thankfulness have in their lives?

After telling us what to get rid of, Paul now speaks about the new clothes we are to wear because of our new life in Christ. *Read Colossians 3:12-17.*

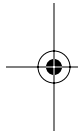
1. What clues do you get regarding Paul's feelings about the Colossians from these verses?



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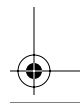
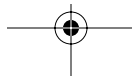
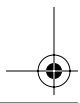
2. Why does Paul begin by reminding us of who we are in God's sight (v. 12)?

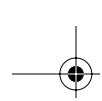
3. How does the description "God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved" (3:12) compare to your view of yourself?



4. Review 1:12-14 and 2:9-10. What do these verses contribute to your identity?

5. If you and your Christian friends put on the "new clothes" of *compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience*, what effect do you think it would have on your family, neighbors and coworkers?

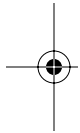




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6. Paul recognizes that grievances occur even in the church. How do his instructions for handling grievances differ from the way our culture handles them (vv. 13-14)?

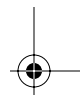
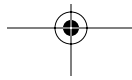
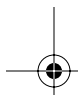
7. How could conflicts be better managed if peace ruled (literally, “functioning like an umpire”) in our hearts (v. 15)?

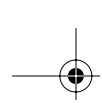


8. How can we let the word of Christ *dwell* in us richly (v.16; see also Ephesians 5:18-20)?

9. What opportunities exist in your church or group to teach, admonish and sing as described in verse 16?

What opportunities would you like to create?





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10. What is the significance of thankfulness that Paul would command it three different ways (vv. 15, 16, 17)?

11. How would doing everything “in the name of the Lord Jesus” transform what you have to say and do this week (v. 17)?

12. In contrast to the rules mentioned in 2:16-23, how are these “new clothes” appropriate expressions of the fullness we have in Christ?

Thank God that you are his chosen people, holy and dearly loved. Ask for grace and power to “dress” appropriately. Confess your disobedience as God convicts you.

Now or Later

Memorize 3:17. Reflect each evening on the difference it makes to speak and act in the name of the Lord Jesus.

