

“Dressed for the Occasion”

Ephesians 4:17-24

C.I.T.—Do not continue in our BC lifestyle after we come to Christ.

Purpose—To encourage our church to live a life worthy.

Introduction—Prayed at capital, wore suit—dressed for the occasion.

**I. Quit Acting like a Lost Person. Vs. 17-19**

- a. Instruction and example of Paul
  - i. No longer walk—at one point your behavior matched the Gentiles, this is encouraging a change in behavior
  - ii. Gentiles—refers to anyone non-Jewish, but also to anyone non-Christian—unbeliever—your BC days
- b. **Bad Behavior Stems from a Futile Mind**
  - i. Vanity—worthless, empty
  - ii. The end result of this mind is nothing
  - iii. Not “nothing” in the mind
  - iv. Could be super intelligent, highly educated, but the end result of that education is “nothing” that lasts
  - v. Thus, actions based on this type of thinking will also be futile and a waste of time.
- c. **Futile Mind stems from Darkened Understanding**
  - i. Understanding is someone’s perception of reality, the way they look at life
  - ii. Darkened—Lacking in moral perception
  - iii. Right is wrong, upside down and backwards
- d. **Darkened Understanding Stems from Separation from God**
  - i. Life of God—the Lord is not part of their equation.
  - ii. Recreate truth and reality, which in turn results in things like CRT, Evolution, etc.
- e. **Separation from God stems from Rejecting Jesus.**
  - i. Ignorance—don’t know about God
  - ii. Hardness of heart—willingly rejecting God’s instruction.
  - iii. They are ignorant, because they refuse to listen.
  - iv. Kid who puts his fingers in his ear while receiving instruction.
  - v. The starting point is a rejection of Christ.
- f. Restatement
  - i. Callous
    - 1. Blistered over skin, over time becomes calloused and hardened
    - 2. Their hearts are hardened because of their sin and the unwillingness to repent.
  - ii. Promiscuity—all types of sensual perversion
  - iii. Work all impurity—becomes a job or practice for them, celebrated
- g. **Romans 1:21-25, 28-32**
- h. Illus.—Worship of Artemis
- i. Application
  - i. Every nation throughout history that has abandoned God has ended up the gutter with respect to sin; in particular sensual sin.
  - ii. When you see a sex saturated society, you see a society that has abandoned the Lord.
  - iii. The movies, tv shows, music, education, politics, media, and culture are all targeting the Gentiles.
  - iv. It then leads to crazy views on all types of things such as the sanctity of life, of marriage, LGBTQ rights, etc..

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- v. Expect lost people to act like lost people.
- vi. We shouldn't expect saved people to act like lost people, but they do.

**II. Keep acting like Jesus.** Vs. 20-24

- a. Learn, heard, have been taught
  - i. Initial communication, reception, and ongoing instruction of the gospel
  - ii. All point to Christ as the content
- b. **Put Off the Old Self**
  - i. Passions corrupted the behavior
  - ii. Remove those as if removing clothing
- c. **Renew Your Mind**
  - i. Be renewed—passive—something renews the mind
  - ii. Illus.—Washing with soap—what washed you, you or the soap?
  - iii. We renew our mind as we read, meditate, focus, and obey the Word of God.
- d. **Put On the New Man**
  - i. Put on, as if putting on new clothes
  - ii. This is a creation in accordance with God/Jesus
  - iii. Righteousness—toward one another
  - iv. Holiness—toward God
- e. **2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20**
- f. Illus.—Taking a shower and then putting your dirty clothes back on
- g. Application
  - i. When we join in watching what the lost watch, laughing at what they laugh, prioritizing what they prioritize, drink what they are drinking, we are putting on the dirty clothes.
  - ii. In the same way that we came to Christ, by putting on the old man.
  - iii. Daily rejecting the old man, purifying our minds, and putting on the new.

Conclusion

- What type of spiritual clothing are you wearing?
- Are you going back to the old familiar rags?
- Is it time that you heed this instruction?
- Quit acting like a lost person, and keep acting like Jesus.
- Starts in the mind
- Either harden your heart and continue.
- Soften your heart and change your mind—repentance.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.