

Ephesians: From Death to Life
The Christian Wardrobe
Ephesians 4:20-32

What Erasmus originally wrote in the Middle Ages, "*vestis virum fastis*," Mark Twain made popular when he wrote, "Clothes make the man." The idea behind that proverb is that our appearance says much about who we are. That may or may not be true physically, but it is certainly true spiritually. When we become Christians, the Bible tells us that we are given a new wardrobe, we are given the righteousness of Christ, and we are called to wear this uniform as we live for Him and the glory of His kingdom.

1. We replace lying with telling the truth.
2. We replace selfish wrath with righteous anger.
3. We replace stealing with work and generosity.
4. We replace corrupt speech with edifying words.
5. We replace bitterness with forgiveness.

Ephesians helps us not only understand the doctrinal truths of salvation, but the practical implications of salvation as well. When we actively put on a Christian wardrobe, we are committing to intentionally think daily about Jesus' kindness, love, and forgiveness towards us. Doing so will change us. It will make us look like Him.

Reflection

Read Ephesians 4:17-32 again. Consider how Paul presents the idea of personal change. Does it happen by trying harder or by becoming a new creation? Explore the theological reasons that provide a foundation for each of the ethical expectations in verses 25-32. Explore how each of these practical examples of a Christian wardrobe are reflected in the life of Jesus. Take some time to think through the differences between righteous anger and unrighteous anger and evaluate which one is more on display in your life. What is your philosophy of work and how does verse 28 inform your opinion about it? Identify ways that you may have grieved the Spirit and take time to seek forgiveness. While seeking forgiveness, ask God to show you places where you need to extend forgiveness.