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Series: The Christian's Spiritual Wardrobe

Title: It's Time to Change Your Clothes

Text: Ephesians 4:17-24

Why Do People Change Clothes?

People like variety

Clothes become worn out

Clothes are stained or damaged

Clothes are out of style

Clothes become too small or too big

Clothes become dirty and stink

In Ephesians the apostle Paul compares our Christian behavior to the changing of clothes. When we were lost our behavior is based upon our sinful choices and habits. When we become Christians our behavior changes and becomes more like Christ. In other words, like changing clothes we with determination daily change from our former behavior into Christian behavior.

As lost people we wore the spiritual clothes depicting our sinful nature. Paul describes what they looked like.

Morally Bankrupt

v.17 Futility of their thinking (vanity)

-- It denotes moral wrong or amoral behavior.

Spirituality Blind to Truth

v.18 Darkened in their understanding

-- The truth is hidden by sinful living

No Sense of Purpose or Direction from God

Separated from the life of God

-- Unsaved condition leads to emptiness

Rejection of God's Revelation of Himself

Ignorance due to hardening of their hearts

-- No desire to know God

The Desire to Know God Is Missing

v.19 Lost all sensitivity

-- No feeling or passion for God

Perversion of God's Purpose in Human Sexuality

Sensuality

-- Sexual impurity, Indulge in impurity

Accumulating Material Possessions Becomes an Obsession

Full of greed

Change Out of These Old Spiritual Clothes and Put on The New

v.22 Put off your old self take off your old self

v.24 Put on the new with true righteousness and Holiness

How Do We Put Off the Old Life?

1. Repent of Our Sin and Place Our Faith in Jesus

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2. Renew Our Minds by The Word of God

Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3. Resist Temptation

James 4:7-8 - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

4. Rely on The Holy Spirit to Guide Us

John 14:26 - But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.