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Week of May 8, 2022

Does God Care What I Wear?

1-2 So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.

3-4 Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

5-8 And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy.

That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

9-11 Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

12-14 So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Colossians 3:1-14 (MSG)

Memory Verse

"The one who says he belongs to Christ should live the same kind of life Christ lived."

1 John 2:6

MY NEXT STEP IS TO. . .

- Memorize 1 John 2:6
- Ask God to reveal to me anything that I'm still clinging to from my old wardrobe, and to clothe myself instead with the character of Christ.
- Get the most out of this weekend's teaching by attending my Life Group



## Discussion Questions - Week #3

# LIFEGROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "Does God Care What I Wear?" summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

What impacted you the most from the message?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

### GETTING STARTED

- What did you have to get dressed up for when you were younger? Did you like or dislike doing so?
- What is one style or trend from childhood that you are thankful hasn't come back around or wish it wouldn't have?
- Why is the analogy of putting on clothing a good descriptor for our life of faith?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Not to be outdone by Paul, the Apostle Peter offers his own shorter encouragement on how Christians ought to clothe themselves in 1 Peter. Read 1 Peter 5:1-11. What stands out to you in this passage?

Why do you think God opposes the proud and shows favor to the humble (v.5 NIV)?

Do you think our culture values humility? Why or why not?

How does this passage challenge you?

Is there anything from this passage that you would like to apply to your own life this week?

2. According to the Colossians passage that Pastor Rick and Judy taught on this weekend, the first item we are to clothe ourselves with regularly is compassion. How would you describe compassion in your own words?

Read Exodus 34:1-7. How does the image the Lord presents in this passage relate to your picture of compassion?

Does this passage raise any questions for you?

How does it impact our understanding of this passage, knowing it happened right after the Israelites worshipped the golden calf (Exod 32)?

How can we grow in compassion if it's an area we struggle with?

Is there anyone specific in your life to whom God is inviting you to extend compassion?

### FOR PRACTICE

In *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster comments, "More than any other single way, the grace of humility is worked into our lives through the Discipline of service. Humility, as we all know, is one of those virtues that is never gained by seeking it. The more we pursue it the more distant it becomes... When we set out on a consciously chosen course of action that accents the good of others and is, for the most part, a hidden work, a deep change occurs in our spirits." Consider the practice of service this week by looking for opportunities to serve others in unseen ways. In doing so, we have the chance to grow in humility and put on love!

### SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

☞ Pray for the hundreds of thousands of Afghans who have fled their homes and sought refuge. Pray for safety as people travel, provision of basic needs such as shelter, food, and water, and that families will be able to stay together. (From OM.Org)