

# DRESS APPROPRIATELY

UNIFORM OF A GODLY MAN SERIES

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. – Colossians 3:12*

## DON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE SPIRITUALLY NAKED

Before a man walks out the door, he checks the mirror. Clothes say something. They communicate identity, intent, and readiness. A uniform signals who you are. A suit shows you mean business. A hard hat means you're ready for work.

But spiritually? Too many of us walk into the day exposed. Still wearing the mindsets, attitudes, and default behaviors of the old man we were before Christ. Paul says: *Take that off. And put on something new.* You've been chosen. Set apart. Dearly loved. Now start dressing like it.

The Greek word Paul uses for “clothe” is *enduo* — it means to sink into, to wrap yourself in, to wear intentionally. It's the same word used to describe putting on armor (Eph 6:11) or power from the Spirit (Luke 24:49). This isn't about acting the part — it's about walking into your day wrapped in the character of Christ.

You put it on... or you drift back into what's familiar. Every day is a wardrobe decision: *Will I wear pride or humility? Harshness or gentleness? Performance or patience?* No one drifts toward Christlikeness. You suit up for it.

## WHY THE ANALOGY OF CLOTHING

Clothing has a purpose. And spiritually, these “garments” Paul lists aren't just moral upgrades — they're tools for transformation. Here's what they do:

- **Protection** — Just like clothes guard you from the elements, these virtues guard your soul. They shield your marriage, your relationships, and your witness.
- **Identity** — Uniforms signal belonging. These garments reflect who you now are in Christ: not defined by your past, your productivity, or your title — but by your adoption.
- **Confidence** — When you know you're dressed right, you walk differently. These clothes replace shame with assurance. Not arrogance, but the quiet strength of a man who knows he belongs to Someone.

## DRESSED FOR WORK

At work, what you wear spiritually matters just as much as what's on your business card. Are you showing up in the old uniform — guarded, reactive, demanding? Or are you wearing Christ — calm under pressure, kind in conflict, and steady when things get chaotic?

Here's what suiting up looks like at work:

- Pausing to pray before that tense conversation.
- Choosing calm over control in a high-stress meeting.
- Being the same man offstage as you are onstage.

Your job isn't just your platform — it's your proving ground.

## FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE BOARDROOM

General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, once said, *"The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."*

Booth led with a fierce commitment to both justice and holiness — not just preaching the gospel but living it in the slums and streets. But before his movement became global, he built a culture: soldiers wore uniforms. Not for show — but to remind themselves who they were, whom they served, and what they were fighting for.

We need that same mindset. This world doesn't need more impressive men. It needs surrendered ones — clothed in something stronger than ego.

## CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q.** What are you still wearing from your "old self" — in your reactions, leadership, or relationships?
- Q.** What would it practically look like for you to "clothe yourself" each morning?
- Q.** Which of the five garments in Colossians 3:12 do you resist putting on the most — and why?

## SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Colossians 3:9–10 — "You have taken off your old self... and have put on the new self..."
- Romans 13:14 — "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ..."

- Ephesians 4:22–24 – “Put off your old self... be made new in the attitude of your minds... put on the new self...”

## PRAYER

Father, help me stop living like the man I used to be. Show me what I’m still clinging to — and give me the courage to take it off. Today, I choose to clothe myself in who You say I am. Wrap me in Your character — not just for my sake, but for the people I lead, love, and influence. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## ACTION STEP

Take 60 seconds before you walk into work — in your car, in the shower, or standing at your closet — and deliberately **put on your spiritual uniform**. Don’t just rush into your day mentally unclothed.

*“God, today I choose to wear compassion... kindness... humility... gentleness... and patience.”*

Ask Him to help you see these virtues not as pressure, but as preparation — what you *get* to wear because of who you are in Christ. Do it daily. And let that rhythm remind you: you’re not just surviving another day — you’re showing up as a representative of Jesus.

## CLOTHE YOURSELF

Deliberately wearing the character of Christ in how you lead, respond, and show up in life and work. Taking off the attitudes of the old self — and dressing for the impact God designed you to make.