



APPROPRIATELY ATTIRED

Introduction:

In years gone by, a lot of emphasis was placed on being dressed appropriately! Many of us will remember how time and effort were put into special occasions in this regard! Today, fashions have changed, and it seems that anything goes!!!

While fashions and styles change ... one still needs to be dressed appropriately for the occasion!

We live in a changing world... and there is little that remains constant! But God never changes... and that is why there is such stability in Christianity. His requirements never change either... and He has a code of dress that we need to ensure we are wearing! This was emphasized by a story Jesus told in Matt. 22 – a man without the wedding garment on!

Man looks on the outward appearance... BUT GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART.... 1 Sam. 16:7.

As we enter the New Year 2001, and God looks at our lives... we want Him to be satisfied with what He sees.... Quite a bit of reference in the Word about clothing... but special attention to Words of Jesus in

Luke 12:35 'Be dressed ready for service!'

1. **Are you appropriately dressed?**

Read: Rev. 3:15-22 (Luke-warmness) Rev. 16:15 (Guard your clothes, so that you may not be naked and have the shame of being exposed!)

Rev. 19:7 – (The bride hath MADE HERSELF ready.)

2. **Before CLEAN garments...needful to PUT OFF....**

Col. 3:8 – Anger, rage, malice (spiteful), slander (maligning someone's character), filthy language, Do not lie... (even exaggeration!!)

Note: (verse 5) this is after you have 'put to death' Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed (which is idolatry!)

God has made every provision for you, and when you opened your heart to Him and were 'born again', washed in the blood of Jesus... your responsibility is to put off these things! **Col. 3:10-11 says you have PUT ON... THE NEW SELF.. THE NEW IMAGE!**

3. **Now you need to get dressed!**

a. Foundation Garments: (Underwear!)

Col. 3:12-13... Note, all these are heart attitudes which cannot be seen, but essential to be in place so that the outer garments look good and put you in good shape! 'Tenderhearted pity and mercy... kind feeling... a lowly opinion of yourself... gentle ways... patience (which is tireless and longsuffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes with good temper! i.e. Don't be judgemental of other people, but bear with them! FORGIVENESS ESSENTIAL!!!

b. Things that will be seen:

Col. 3:14 - 'OVER' all these virtues 'put on'
LOVE - Col 3:14.

Isa. 61:10 – Garments of Salvation,
- Robe of Righteousness

Isa. 61:3 – Garment of Praise.

Rev. 19:7-8 (amp.) Fine Linen... (signifies the righteousness of the saints – the upright, just, godly living, deeds and conduct and right standing with God!)

PEACE OF CHRIST rule in your hearts....Col. 3:15.

Many things that try to shatter our peace!

WORD OF CHRIST dwell in you richly... Col. 3:16.

This is where the serving begins.... but HELP.... You need an apron!

1 Peter 5:5 says (amp.) 'Apron yourselves with humility!'

illus: John 13:2-17 – Jesus washing disciples feet!

As you look into the mirror of God's Word... you KNOW that there is something missing.....

LUKE 24:47-49.... Stay until you are **CLOTHED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH....**

CHALLENGE:

1. Have you been cleansed in the blood of Jesus?

2. **Have you taken off the things that will ruin anything 'new' that is to be worn? SIN, BAD ATTITUDES, UNFORGIVENESS...**
3. **Have you PUT ON all He has provided?**
4. **Have you been CLOTHED with power from on high?**