

Costumes

Pt. 1 - What to Put On, What to Take Off

Costumes - Appropriate dress to represent a place, person or thing.

Example - Officiating a wedding then playing golf

Note - We represent Christ!

Romans 13:13-14, Let us live decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in discord and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to arouse its desires.

Example - Jon Matson, UK Postal carrier (from gladiator to cheerleader) during COVID shut down

· God tells us what to put on and what to take off.

Ephesians 4:21-32, Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God - truly righteous and holy. 25 So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. 26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil. 28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. 29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. 30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the

way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

The Wrong Costume

1. Lies

Proverbs 12:22, Lips that lie are disgusting to the LORD, but honest people are his delight.

Note - Satan is the father of lies. Quit adopting his kids!

2. Anger

Proverbs 19:11, A person's wisdom makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

3. Theft

Isaiah 61:8, For I, the LORD, love justice and hate robbery and sin.

Note - One of the most common ways we rob one another is a lack of respect.

Romans 13:7, Pay everyone what is owed: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

4. Foul and abusive language

2 Timothy 2:16, But avoid irreverent, empty chatter, which will only lead to more ungodliness...

Note - Wickedness often begins with profanity.

Example - The entertainment industry

5. Bitterness

Hebrews 12:15, Make sure no one misses out on God's wonderful kindness. Don't let anyone become bitter and cause trouble for the rest of you.

Note - Offense and bitterness is toxic and contagious.

· We need to beware of wolves in sheep's clothing and sheep in wolf's clothing.

Matthew 7:15, Watch out for false prophets! They dress up like sheep, but inside they are wolves who have come to attack you.

Example - Showing up in a costume

Colossians 3:12-14, Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

The Right Costume

1. Mercy

Matthew 5:7, Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Note - Mercy is over all the works of God's hand! (Psalm 145:9)

2. Kindness

Romans 2:4, Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is

nothing to you: Can't you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

Note - Maybe this is why more people are not getting saved?

3. Humility

James 4:6, But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble."

4. Gentleness

Matthew 11:29, Take my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Note - A yoke harnesses the power of the stronger of the two.

5. Patience

Hebrews 6:12, We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Note - Faith alone can not bring God's promises to pass.

6. Forgiveness

Mark 11:25, "Whenever you pray, forgive anything you have against anyone. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your failures."

7. Love

1 Corinthians 16:14, Everything you do should be done in love.

- God has provided the proper costume.

Matthew 22:1-13, Jesus also told them other parables. He said, 2 "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. 3 When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come! 4 "So he sent other servants to tell them, 'The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!' 5 But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. 6 Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them. 7 "The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. 8 And he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor. 9 Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' 10 So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. 12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. 13 Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Note - The tradition of the wedding feast - garments were provided that created equality, demonstrated honor and celebrated the couple

- Wearing the wrong costume demonstrates our indifference.

Revelation 3:15-19, "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the

other! 16 But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! 17 You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. 18 So I advise you to buy gold from me - gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. 19 I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference."