

Costumes

Pt. 3 - Zeal

Note - The term "costume" is often associated with play acting and we are not endorsing that. However, Webster defines a costume as the appropriate dress to represent a person, place or thing. We are to represent!

Romans 13:14, ...put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to arouse its desires.

- One of the things we are to put on is zeal.

Isaiah 59:17, He wears his desire for justice like body armor, and his desire to deliver is like a helmet on his head. He puts on the garments of vengeance and wears zeal like a robe.

Note - We are to be Christlike and Jesus was zealous!

John 2:13-17, When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the moneychangers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" 17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Note - I guess this answers the WWJD question!

How to Put on Zeal

1. Turn over your tables.

Note - In what way has convenience replaced commitment?

Example - Online verses in-person

Hebrews 10:25, And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

2. Execute judgement on your sin.

Numbers 25:1-10, While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, 2 who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. 3 So Israel joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. And the LORD'S anger burned against them. 4 The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the LORD'S fierce anger may turn away from Israel." 5 So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your men who have joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor." 6 Then an Israelite man brought to his family a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. 7 When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand 8 and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear through both of them - through the Israelite and into the woman's body. Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; 9 but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000. 10 The LORD said to Moses, 11 "Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites; for he was as zealous as I am for my honor among them, so that in my zeal I did not put an end to them.

Note - Your Moabite might look like aossio. porn.

... these ... real ... might ... gossip, pornography, racism, ... drunkenness, adultery, etc. Whatever it is, it needs ... to die!

3. Maintain a fresh testimony.

Isaiah 9:7, Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Note - Stop trying to get by on yesterday's experience with God! We need a new testament!

Example - Who have we led to the Lord, who have we healed and helped? When's the last time we cast out a devil?

4. Triumph over your enemies.

Isaiah 42:13, The LORD will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.

Note - Instead of running from our enemies we need to send our enemies running!

Romans 12:11, Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Illustration – The country boy and the atheist

- Zeal is spiritual fervor.

Note - The word zeal comes from the Greek word Zelos which means 'heat.' Heat comes from fire and fire from the Holy Ghost! We need a fresh baptism of fire!

Matthew 3:11, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I,

whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

2 Timothy 1:6, That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands...

Revelation 3:14-19, "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

Note - Laodicea was a wealthy city whose main industry was textiles and medicinal salves used to cure eye infections. It was situated between 2 cities, one known for its pure, cold drinking water and the other for its hot springs. The aqueducts used to channel water to the city left a sediment that, which consumed would induce vomiting. What Jesus was addressing was usefulness!

Example - The complacent football team

Note - No one is interested in dead, lifeless religion! We are dressed in apathy, complacency and indifference and we need to be dressed in zeal!

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