

Upgrade Your Clothes!

Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Eph 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Eph 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Here Paul says to put off something and put on something. The terms “put off and put on” are clothing terms in the Greek. They speak of taking off old soiled garments in exchange for new fresh ones. Now this putting on clothing imagery both speaks of our outward behavior just like we wear clothes on the outside of our body to be seen, but it also speaks of behavior that is connected to our identity. Clothes identify us. Many professions have specific clothing that identify them- doctors, nurses, fireman, businessman, cowboy, etc. We wear clothes that speak of our identity or *sense of identity*. Paul here is saying we are to put off the old soiled garments that the old man used to wear, which is carnal behaviors. Why? Because we are not the old man any more. Ladies, you are not the same old lady you once were! If we have been born again we are a new person in Christ! Since we are new we are to wear the brand new clothes God has provided for the new creation to wear. We are created in righteousness and true holiness. Since we are, we need to dress like it! What are the new clothes we are to put on?

(Col 3:12) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

These are the new clothes that go with our new identity! How do we put these new clothes on? Well, first we need to take off the old clothes! Our spiritual closet where we slip off the old clothes for new ones is our mind. Notice in verse 23 above we are to be “renewed in the spirit [*deepest part*] of our mind”. This means we need to renew our mind to our new identity in Christ! We are righteous and truly holy. Christ is our new nature! By renewing our mind to this we can slip on the brand new clothes that

have been laid out for us in our reborn spirit! It is time to upgrade your clothes! It is time to deck yourself out for Jesus and for the world to see Him! Amen!