



SUPREME

PASTOR ED NEWTON

NOVEMBER 4&5

DRESSED FOR SUCCESS



Community Bible Church

Sermon Discussion Questions: **Nov 5, 2023**

Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Dressed for Success

Text: Colossians 3:5-17

Target: *"If you want something new, you have to stop doing something old"* Peter F. Drucker.

• GET RID OF YOUR GRAVE CLOTHES

- I. **A Command to be Ruthless:** *"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you."* (Vs. 3:5a)
 - A. **The Hard:** *"Put to death"* (Vs. 5)
 - B. **The Heart:** *"earthly IN you"* (Vs. 5)
 - C. **The Honest:** *"sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."* (Vs. 5b)
 - D. **The Hour:** *"On account of these the wrath of God is coming."* (Vs. 6)
 - E. **The Hope:** *"In these you too once walked, when you were living in them."* (Vs. 7)

Question #1: *Why do you think the language Paul uses toward sin, "Put to death," is so harsh? How does this frame our perspective of the severity of sin in our lives? How does this language influence the measures we take to turn from these behaviors?*

Question #2: *Verse 7 reminds the Colossians church, "In these you too once walked, when you were living in them." Before Christ, everyone in the family of God once experienced earthly or sinful desires at a point in their life. Why is this a necessary reminder in the middle of this conversation of sin in people's lives? How does this verse balance and influence our approach to discussing our personal struggles with one another? How does this shape our view and interaction with those who have not come to know Jesus yet?*

- II. **A Challenge to be Relentless:** *"But now you must put them all away:"* (Vs. 3:8)
 - A. **The Hard:** *"put them ALL away"* (Vs. 8a)
 - B. **The Heart:** *"anger, wrath, malice, slander and obscene talk from your mouth."* (Vs. 8b)
 - C. **The Honest:** *"Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with it's practices"* (Vs. 9)
 - D. **The Hour:** *"and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."* (Vs. 10)
 - E. **The Hope:** *"but Christ is all, and in all. (Vs. 11)*

Question #3: *In your own words, how would you describe this sanctifying process of stopping sinful practices and becoming more Christlike in your behavior, attitudes, and desires? What illustrations or analogies come to mind that help us understand the ongoing nature of this relentless pursuit?*

● **KEEP ON YOUR CHURCH CLOTHES**

- III. **A Call to be Reminded:** *“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved” (Vs.12a)*
- A. **Visceral of Virtues (Inward):** *“compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience” (Vs. 12)*
 - B. **Virtues become Visible (Outward):** *“bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.” (Vs. 13)*
 - C. **Vice of Values (Upward):** *“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” (Vs. 14)*

Question #4: *What value is there in regularly remembering the virtues and values we are called to live out? What role does the Holy Spirit play in this effort God calls us to? How can we commit to glorify God in the seasons where we feel we are not living with our “Church Clothes” on?*

- IV. **A Choice to be Ruled:** *“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you indeed were called in one body. And be thankful.” (Vs. 15)*
- A. **Rooted in the Word:** *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Vs. 16a)*
 - B. **Renewed in Worship:** *“teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Vs. 16b)*
 - C. **Revealed by Works:** *“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Vs. 17)*

Takeaway: Which hamper are you living out of?

Question #5: *How can we make the choice to be ruled, rooted, and renewed by God on a regular basis? What is one practical way you can get rid of your Grave Clothes and put on your Church Clothes this week?*

Additional Resources:

The Bible Project, “Book of Colossians Summary” - TBP specializes in bringing themes, books, and characters in scripture into an easy-to-digest visual format through animation. Find their video on YouTube for a quick yet powerful summary of the book of Colossians.