

## Introduction — The Clothes Made the Man

In the first century, your **clothing** announced your **identity**, rank, and authority; to change garments was to change one’s **standing**.

- › Joseph, Mordecai, and especially the high **priest** — the vestments **were** the office itself.
- › Zechariah 3 — Joshua’s filthy garments removed and clean ones given: a changed **standing** before God.

## The Colossian Heresy (Colossians 2:16–23)

The false teaching said Christ alone is not **enough** — you need **secret** knowledge, harsh **ascetic** practice, and religious **experiences** to be **complete**.

Paul’s answer (1:19; 2:9–10): in Christ you are **already complete**.

## The Argument (Colossians 2–3)

### Already true in Christ:

- › You have **DIED** and been **RAISED** — 3:1–4
- › Your **FLESH** was put off — 2:11
- › The **POWERS** were stripped & disarmed — 2:15

### Therefore:

- › **PUT TO DEATH** disordered desires — 3:5
- › **PUT OFF** relational sins — 3:8–9
- › **PUT ON** the new self — 3:12–14
- › **WALK** in it and give thanks — 3:15–17

## I. Died and Raised (3:1–4; 2:11–15)

- › “You have died” (3:3) is a settled **fact**, already complete — not a death you must achieve.
- › God’s hand peeled the old self off like a **garment** (2:11); its power is broken, though sin’s **presence** remains till glory — so we **reckon** ourselves dead (Rom 6).
- › Change runs through the renewed **mind** (3:2; Rom 12:2): **indicative** before imperative — identity before activity.

**Key Point:** Because these are **true** of us in Christ, we are **enabled** to take off the old **clothes** and put on the new.

## II. The False Cure — Self-Powered Effort (2:20–23)

- › “Do not handle, taste, touch” — self-made religion, or **will-worship**; an appearance of wisdom, but **powerless** to stop the flesh.
- › Self-effort doesn’t starve the flesh; it **feeds** it through spiritual **pride**.

**Key Point:** True mortification is worked out from a death we have already **died** in Christ — by His **energy** working in us (1:29).

## III. Take Off the Old Clothes (3:5–11)

- › “Therefore” — because you **died**, put to death: a **decisive**, whole act; treat sin like an **execution**, not a negotiation.
- › Internal desires — immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, covetousness = **idolatry**: a **worship** problem, replaced by a **superior** affection.
- › “Put them all away” (3:8) — strip off the filthy coat of **relational** sins; the opposite of abiding — stay joined to Christ and the flesh **starves**.

**Key Point:** You take off the old garment because you have already taken off the old **man** who wore it.

## IV. Put On the New Clothes (3:10, 12–14)

- › Already **dressed** in the new self (3:10); “being renewed” is done **to** you, by God.
- › “Put on” on the basis of identity — **chosen**, holy, **beloved**; the wardrobe is the character of **Christ** Himself.
- › Forgive as you were **forgiven** (2:14); above all, **love** — the belt that binds it all together.

**Key Point:** You are not **weaving** new virtues; you are wearing what already **hangs in your closet** in Christ.

## V. Walk in the Identity (3:15–17)

- › Let the peace of Christ **rule** — the umpire who makes the call; let the word of Christ **dwell** richly — “in you” is **plural**, a corporate word.
- › “Whatever you do... in the **name** of the Lord Jesus,” with **thanksgiving** (three times in three verses).

**Key Point:** Thanksgiving is the native air of people who know they already **have everything** in Christ.

## Concluding Thoughts — Get Dressed Like the Person You Already Are

1. Stop trying to **generate** a death; live from one already **died**. Stay joined to Christ and let the old **starve**.
2. Get dressed in your **true identity**: chosen, holy, beloved. Put on the wardrobe that matches the **man**.
3. Don’t do this **alone**: the new self is worn in **community**.