



Flourishing

Part 2 (Dressing Up) St Matthias March 17th 2020

*Colossians 3: 9-13 Do not lie to each other since you have **taken off** the old self with its practices and have **put on** the new self which is being renewed in the image of the creator ...*

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **cloth yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.*

Some of us are not very good with clothes and would value having a style-guru! Paul is pointing to Jesus and suggest that we need to dress properly.

1. Take off

Some of our behaviour is dishonouring to God, damaging to others and destructive to ourselves.

Unfortunately, like dealing with old clothes we can't be bothered to deal with our faults.

Paul says we need to deal with sin decisively by "taking off" and "putting to death" our sins. We also have "signature sins". These are usually the shadow side of a strong point in our character.

2. Put on

- a) **Some things are not optional.** The "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22) is singular; it does not allow us to pick some good qualities and reject others. We need to spot the "clothes" we need to wear.
- b) **Some things are a delight (we are not to be legalists).** "Oughts and should" are rarely helpful. So, although the Christian life is often described as a "fight", when the Spirit comes we can WANT what we OUGHT to do! Sustainable spiritual growth happens when we desire what is right
- c) **It's personal.** You can have exactly the same clothes on a different shape of body – and the clothes look very different. Our clothes are personal.

Questions

1. What is your signature sin? Is there someone close who could help you see yourself as others (and God) see you?
2. What virtues come relatively easily to you? What do you find difficult? How can you let God clothe you?
3. What good and God-like things do you delight to do? How can you put music into your life?
4. Have you been dressing in other people's clothes (ie meeting the expectation of others)? How could you be the unique "you that God wants you to be"?