

“The Christian’s New Clothes!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Congrats** - Our **Girls VB** took championship(State Tues); **Marching Band** won 1st place in state competition in our division (Pat Valines granddaughter best solo out of all bands).
- B. What is the identifying mark of a **Hindu**? (Bindi/u; “a drop/dot”; Forehead decoration; Forehead is the exit point for *kundalini energy*; thus wear Bindi to help **retain energy & strengthen concentration**; & protect from demons & bad luck)
 What is the identifying mark of a **follower of antichrist in trib**? (mark on forehead)
 What is the identifying mark of the **144,000**? (seal on forehead Rev.7:3)
 What is the identifying mark of a **Punjabi/Sikh religion**? (Turban)
 What is the identifying mark of a **pious Jew**? (phylactery on forehead)
 What is the identifying mark of a **Mormon**? (name badge w/1st name “elder”)
 What is the identifying mark of a **JW**? (Watch Tower magazine)
 What is the identifying mark of a **Christian**? (wears a cross? bumper sticker?)
 What is the identifying mark of a **Genuine Believer**? (Love!!!)
- C. Not only is the believer to **put off** the evils of the old life(vs.8,9), he is to **put on** the graces of the new life.
1. **Do we ever get past the putting off?** We seem to only define ourselves, or be defined by, what we’ve **put off** & not by what we **put on**!
 2. We’ve advertised to the world what we “don’t **do**, don’t **see**, don’t **read**, don’t **say**”. **Can we start showing them what we’ve put on?** What we do...do!

II. **THE CHRISTIAN’S NEW CLOTHES!**

- A. In 1837 **Hans Christian Anderson** wrote “*The Emperor’s new clothes*” about an emperor who unwittingly hires two swindlers to create a new suit of clothes for him.
1. This cloth, they told him, is **invisible** to anyone who was either **stupid** or **unfit for his position**. The Emperor cannot see the (non-existent) cloth, but pretends that he can for fear of appearing stupid; his ministers do the same. When the swindlers report that the suit is finished, they dress him in mime. The Emperor then goes on a procession through the capital showing off his new "clothes". During the course of the procession, a **small child** cries out, **“But he has nothing on!”** The crowd realizes the child is telling the truth. The Emperor, however, holds his head high and continues the procession.

2. I believe **name only Christians** have tried to promote the **same fraud**. They prance down the runway of life, telling everyone they're wearing **new spiritual clothes**, but no one can see them!
3. Paul gives us the ability to spot **The Christian's New Clothes**.

B. **Outline: Our Position; Our Principles**(*The New Clothes*); **Our Process; Our Progress**.

C. **OUR POSITION!** (12a)

D. These 3 descriptions tell of what the Christian **is** in the sight of God.

E. **Elect**, chosen of God! & **Holy**, consecrated for God! & **Loved**, by God!

1. **And all these come from our union with Christ!**
2. We belong to His **redeemed community** because of **His saving initiative**.
 - a) So we must be clothed with a **new kind of life**.

F. **OUR PRINCIPLES!** (12b-14)

G. Often **clothes** are an indication of **personality** [Overly baggy pants; surf clothes; business suit; western; mini-skirt; Muslim women's burka], so the impression & expression of these graces will show **whose we are & whom we serve!**

H. **Tender mercies** - a heart of compassion.

1. Because with the affections right...everything else should follow.

I. **Kindness** - opposite of **harshness & severity**.

J. **Humility**-recognizing of ones own weakness **but also** the recognition of the power of God.

K. **Meekness** - **gentle attitude, kind acts towards others**, often in the face of opposition.

L. **Kindness** - opposite of everything **rude & overbearing**.

M. **Longsuffering** - a *long holding out* of the mind, before it gives room to action or passion.

1. Those who are **humble in mind** will naturally be **slow to resent wrongs & will won't contemplate revenge**.

N. **Bearing with one another** - to endure, "to put up with someone".

1. Every **social group** has its **set of problems**, & **the church** is no exception!
2. We must have **Christian graces** that enhance our relationships.

O. **Forgiving one another** -

1. In all matters of **complaint & blame**, this **readiness to forgive** should be shown.

P. **Love** - *above all these things put on love*.

1. Love is regarded as that which holds together the various Christian graces already mentioned.
 2. **The unbeliever** makes himself the center of his life; **the Christian** makes “others” the center of his life.
 3. **Love is the identifying mark of the genuine believer!!!**
- Q. What a wonderful picture of Christian living here!
- R. **OUR PROCESS!** (15,16a)
- S. **The Peace of God rule in your hearts!** (15)
1. **Rule** = peace is to be the **umpire** or **arbiter** deciding & ruling the life.
 - a) It settles the differences, especially where there is any **conflict** of **thoughts & feelings**.
 - b) Under such circumstances *the peace of Christ* is to decide!
 - c) **It stresses harmony in the group rather than personal peace!** (15)
- T. **Be thankful** - (Lightfoot) “forget yourselves in thanksgiving towards God”.
1. **How do I deal with our economy?** “forget yourselves in thanksgiving towards God.”
 2. **How do I deal with doubts & fears?** “forget yourselves in thanksgiving towards God.”
 3. **How do I deal with our future?** “forget yourselves in thanksgiving towards God.”
 - a) And what a great week to do it! (**Thanksgiving**) :-)
- U. **Be thankful** - (Pres. tense) “a continual action pointing to a habit of life.”
1. **Can you say you're habitually thankful?**
 2. {Invite out for Thanksgiving Eve Service}
- V. **The Word of Christ dwell in you richly!** (16)
1. **Yes, the Scriptures are derived from the inspiration of the H.S., but they are full of Jesus' person, character, sufferings, & glory!**
 - a) He is the **author & subject** of their contents.
 - b) Jesus told the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, “**These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**”
 - c) **Take Him** out of the **bible** & you take the **sun** out of our **world**, & the **soul** out of the **body**. (William Jay; *Morning Exercises*; pg.401)
 2. It's not enough to be **taught** the truth; we must **possess it** as a **present personal experience!**
 - a) Not just **learning about** God, but **how to walk** with Him!

- b) We about helping people become *more Christian* or *to get to know Jesus better?*
- c) Do we obligate people to a **meeting** rather than equip them to **live in Him**?
- d) Church life is not about an **institution** but about a **family**!
- e) Church life must not be about **managing the machinery** but about **equipping followers!** (by helping them find a *real relationship* w/the *living God*)

3. **The Word** is to be **in** us as abiding there, **dwelling in us as in a home**.
4. It should not be treated as a **stranger** or **slave**, at a distance; but received as an **intimate guest**. (Griffith Thomas pg.101)
5. Its to abide in us plentifully(*richly*).
6. Its to abide in us "**in all wisdom**" - so that we ma know how to **help others live!**
 - a) Some put the punctuation(;) after *one another*; to separate it out.

W. **Teaching**(central form the beginning of Christian history);
Admonishing(Christians have a responsibility for the moral & spiritual lives of one another; we can't say "**I'm not my brothers keeper**" like Cain); **Singing**(expression of gratitude & worship).

1. It shows our **response**, **Our Progress...**

X. **OUR PROGRESS!** (16b,17)

Y. **Psalms** - Psalm with instruments.

Z. **Hymns** - Christian compositions.

AA.**Spiritual songs** - This word is a *general term* including the other 2, but goes further in referring to **all forms of songs**..so long as they are **spiritual**.

BB.**Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord** - Here is our deepest challenge.

1. Speaks of our **inner life in-tune** w/God; **our soul's personal fellowship** w/God
2. **When we put on love, have the peace of God, & have the Word of Christ** hidden in our lives, the result...**singing w/grace in our hearts to the Lord**.

CC.**The Name of the Lord Jesus do all!** (17)

1. Now he takes it **outward** to our **entire life!** **Everything is included in this!**
2. Christianity is a religion of **principles**, **not rules**, & **everything** is to be done to the glory of God. [1 Cor.10:31 **Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God**]
- a) **Illustration:** I have a friend that installs flooring. The wood of the flooring went bad on a job. The manufacture wouldn't take responsibility. He replaced the whole floor himself. There's a man who doesn't work for the almighty dollar, but works for His God...to bring Him glory! And, he won a beautiful friendship out of the job.

DD.**Invite up worship team:** focus, "**singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**"