

### **SLIDE 1. Christ In Me: Clothed In Christ**

Old clothes you do not know are old, but everyone else does.

Dad. Eric 80s 90s- (black socks black shoes, baggy shorts) his style is now back

Truth is some of us walk in this morning wearing the old style of sin.

Because your identity is in Christ, you have to take off, put to death the things of this world (and it is really hard to put to death something that has become a part of you, harder than throwing out that old pair of clothes that needs to go), and put on Christ. And the result is restored peace, which we all want.

### **SLIDE 2. You have to take off the old to put on the new**

. Verses 1-4- Because we are saved, our lives are now found in Christ

### **SLIDE 3. Colossians 3:5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature (it does not belong to your new nature in Christ): sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.**

(You no longer belong to your earthly nature; you belong to Christ now.)

“You don’t outgrow sin by ignoring it.”

Are you deadly serious about sin because its deadly to your spiritual life. Fight against it as violently as it is fighting against you. Not passively, Put it to death, today, don't punch it, kick it, kill it. Raquel and I will watch the occasional scary movie, always make sure the monster is dead! If not, it comes back stronger or when you are weaker.

You have to take off the old to put on the new

### **SLIDE- Colossians 3:7 and you once walked in these things when you were living in them.**

#### **7- You once lived in them, but now put to death...**

You have lived under this rule and power, but you no longer live in them. You may fall into them time and time again, maybe more than you like, but if you are saved, you can not live to sin, you can ensnare yourself but you live in Christ now, so that power is not there anymore over your life, you have the strength to conquer whatever old sin you are wearing.

“I do not know what to do; I am trapped by this sin, I can't escape.” YOU ARE RIGHT you cant but At any moment through the blood of Christ, you can free yourself and take off that sin that so easily throws you off the path of Christ.

### **SLIDE- One of Satan’s biggest lies is that we can not at any moment kill our sin by returning to the cross for repentance and forgiveness.**

The cross didn’t almost work “He drank the vinegar” IT IS FINISHED

## **Romans 6:6 (KJV)**

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

So now that those sins are killed...

**SLIDE- Colossians 3:8 But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self. (you may not feel new right now, perhaps still holding onto that old) You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.**

These are smaller sins than the sexual and idolatry one but no sin is the place for the believer, so Paul is challenging us to surrender it all to Christ.

We love being 99% Christians “I am basically checking all the boxes”

“Little sins reveal big idols.”

What little sins are you holding onto?

(all the things that are contrary to Christ’s identity so Paul is saying put away all the things that are contrary because you are in Christ now)

A lot of turmoil for Christians is found when we confuse our identity in Christ with the world’s. Soul and the body are disconnected because you are living one way, but your life is in Christ now, and that is a tension that leads to anxiety, doubt, fear, and anger. So on a daily bases when the moment comes, “Who do I choose to identify with?” “The Lord gave me the strength to choose Him, to be. a living sacrifice while you put to death sin.”

## **True Story: Augustine’s Old Life Aw-GUS-tin**

Augustine of Hippo lived wildly before coming to Christ — sexual sin, pride, ambition. After his conversion, he tells a story in his book *Confessions*: One day he was walking down the street and a woman he had previously slept with saw him. She called out, “Augustine! It is I!” He kept walking. She yelled again, “Augustine! It is I!” Finally he turned and said: “Yes... but it is not I.” Same body. New identity. That’s Colossians 3. You once lived in it — but that’s not you anymore.

If you have a split identity as a christian you look just like the world. I tell our college students you should stand out, you should be vastly different from the world, having a peace that can only be described as a life clothed with Christ, peace through the storms of life because of Christ in you.

Now that we have taken off our earthly nature, now that we have taken off the old, lets see what we can put on.

**SLIDE: 12-13 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy (because God calls you Holy) and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.**

Why do we need these things? Because it can be really hard to deal with people while they are wearing their old ways, envy and bitterness, lying etc. We need to have compassion for one another, if not we end up like Jonah not realizing we ourselves have been and are currently given so much forgiveness and patience (SEE DEARLY BELOVED) from our heavenly father and fellow christians.

Not the time to lord it over our fellow believers but the ability to love, even when its hard.

**SLIDE: "It is most significant to note that every one of the graces listed has to do with personal relationships between man and man. There is no mention of virtues like efficiency or cleverness, not even of diligence or industry, not that these things are unimportant. But the great basic Christian virtues are those which govern human relationships." (Barclay)**

William Barclay, *The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians*

In comparison to the massive debt we have to christ those little things we hold against each other have no place in the life of a believer.

**SLIDE: 14 Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful.**

You can't put on new clothes without taking off the old. (the sins that affect the body and the soul, the ones that have a special power to destroy a believer, take that off, then put on Christ, then you will notice these other smaller sins.)

"Imagine standing in front of your closet tomorrow morning. Two outfits. One labeled 'Old Self.' One labeled 'Christ.'"

Every morning you choose.

Peace, when our identity is established, when we put on Christ, when we take off the old self. no more conflict in the soul. Peace even during wars.

## What's the result of this peace?

**SLIDE Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,[d] singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

You can't put on new clothes without taking off the old.

standing in front of your closet tomorrow morning. Two outfits. One labeled 'Old Self.' One labeled 'Christ.'"

you choose.

The church can't choose for you.

Your friends can't choose for you.

Your pastor can't choose for you.

But we can help you while you change.

If you choose to wear your new clothes, you have to take off the old.

The church can't take it off for you; that takes patience and bearing one another, loving one another

Church, that means we need to have patience, and that takes love while we are taking off the old and putting on the new, because for some, for many, that takes time, because it is hard to tell when clothes get old, even everyone else can tell.

**Those who have had a sin for years, so long, think its impossible to get rid of, stopped praying for it even, would you give pauls letter a chance, and let the cross do its work, you may find the blood of christ more powerful then you once though or even could ever imagine.**

**SLIDE: Take off: your earthly nature (sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry, anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie)**

**Put On: Love (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another)**

"Little sins reveal big idols."

You have to take off before you can put on. Do you lack love? What do you need to remove this morning to make room for the love of Christ? And when we are a people clothed in the love of christ the world won't be able to look away.