

## **Bible Study: Love goes well with what you're wearing**

*You will get more out of this study if you read the verses and ponder the questions several times a day. You'll also get more out of the study if you discuss it with others. Jesus says where two or three are gathered together in his name, he is there with them.*

### **Monday** Genesis 41:14, 41-43 (NRSV)

Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon. When he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. . . .

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Removing his signet ring from his hand, Pharaoh put it on Joseph's hand; he arrayed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command; and they cried out in front of him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.

*When a person's destiny changes radically, often what they are wearing changes. Joseph went from prison garb to regular clothes to the clothes of royalty in a day as his fate changed from captive to advisor to second in command. (As other examples of people's destiny changing when their clothing changes, see Luke 15:22 and Zechariah 3:1-5.)*

*This week we'll look at several passages that describe how you can be clothed. Maybe if you try wearing something different, your destiny will change for the better! It's worth a try!*

*When has your life taken a sudden turn for the better?*

### **Tuesday** Ephesians 4:22-24 (NRSV)

You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

*Paul tells the Ephesians they can be clothed in the new self, formed when they began following Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit.*

*How do you behave when you clothe yourself in your new self?*

*How much do you currently operate out of the new self and how much do you currently operate out of your old self?*

*Maybe your destiny will change if you operate more out of your new self! Try operating more out of the new self for part (or all) of today. What happens?*

*What is different?*

### **Wednesday** Ephesians 6:11-17

Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

*Paul says several things would be helpful to wear to keep yourself safe from the devil: truth, righteousness, readiness to proclaim the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God.*

*Which do you wear most of the time?*

*Which do you need to wear more?*

*Pick one that you need to wear more and try clothing yourself in it for part (or all) of today. What happens?*

*What is different?*

**Thursday** Colossians 3:12-14

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

*Paul gives the Colossians a long list. They can clothe themselves in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience and love. The most important, he says, is love.*

*Of the things on the list, what do you wear most of the time?*

*What do you need to wear more?*

*Pick one of the attributes to focus on for part (or all) of today. When you clothe yourself in it, what changes?*

**Friday** 1 Peter 5:5b-6

All of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.

*What would be different in your life if you wore more humility?*

*Try wearing humility for part (or all) of today. What is different about the day?*

**Saturday** Romans 13:12-14 (NRSV)

The night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*For the Christian, this is the capstone. You can put on Jesus.*

*What would be different if you remembered to put on Jesus throughout the day?*

*Try living part (or all) of today "wearing" Jesus. How is your day different?*

*What have you done this week because of Jesus?*

*What do you want to do next week because of Jesus?*

*What do you need help with?*

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