

28A - 2026

Clothing and Spiritual Change

Clothing is a common New Testament metaphor for spiritual change. Paul wrote in Romans, "*Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ*, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature" (Rom 13:14).

And in First Corinthians, "*The perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable*, and the mortal with immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:53).

In Colossians, we read, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, *clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience*. (Colossians 3:12).

Finally, in First Peter we are admonished, "All of you, *clothe yourselves with humility* toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble'" (1 Peter 5:5). Being clothed anew is a consistent New Testament expression for holiness and righteousness. The old clothes have to come off and new ones put on.

This text confronts us with the paradox of God's free invitation to the banquet with no strings attached and God's requirement of "putting on" something appropriate to that calling. The theological point is that we are warned of the dire consequences of accepting the invitation and doing nothing except showing up.

(by Mickey Anders from [When Showing Up Isn't Enough](#))

The Wedding Garment

What's with the demand for a wedding garment? Did the man slip in uninvited, and now stands ashamed because he has been detected? Or was lack of a wedding garment an additional insult to the host and his silence a gesture of defiance?

The ancient rabbis told a similar story. As they taught its lesson: he was invited, but he was a fool; the summons to the wedding feast came earlier than he expected and found him unprepared. The lesson is that the summons to the Kingdom may come at any moment. Woe to the unprepared!

According to Jeremias, Rabbi Eliezer said: "Repent one day before your death. His students asked him, "How can a man know the day of his death?" he answered them,

"Since he may die tomorrow, it is all the more necessary to repent today; thus, all through his life he will be found in a state of penitence. Moreover, Solomon in his wisdom has said: 'Let thy garments be always white; and let not thy head lack anointing.

Thus, the wedding garment symbolizes our repentance. Put it on the day before your death, the day before the flood breaks; put it on today!

Grace invites us inside whether we are the good or the bad. The demand for a garment reminds us that just showing up is not enough; we must respond to such grace.

"I'm too busy sending telegrams to build fires."

There is a good story from years ago about a top executive with a telegraph company who went on a trip. It was extremely cold outside when he arrived at the bus station, so he went into a local telegraph station hoping to get warmed up. When he got inside, however, it was cold. He noticed there was no fire in the fireplace. He said to the young telegraph operator, "Why don't you build a fire in this place and warm it up?" The young man said, "Listen mister, I'm too busy sending telegrams to build fires." The man then told this boy that he was the vice-president of the company and that he wanted him to send a telegram to the home office at once. The message was, "Fire this man immediately." A moment later the young telegraph operator brought a load of wood into the office and began to build a fire. The executive asked, "Young man, have you sent that telegram yet?" The young telegraph operator said, "Listen mister, I'm too busy building fires to send telegrams." — The point is that somewhere in life we have to set priorities. We have to decide what really matters and make certain that the really important things are done. Time with our family, service to our community, attention to our work, relaxation, self-improvement we could develop a list of important issues that would go on and on. Somewhere we must draw a line, but God must come first, or nothing else will matter! First things first! (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).