

Putting Off—Putting On

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 4:22-24.
- B. There is far more to Christianity than just one's final destiny.
- C. Christianity is intended to change man to live differently now.

II. The place to begin in the Christian life is a change of thought.

- A. The mind must be changed.
- B. The thinking of the world in general is ignorance.
- C. Paul is not challenging the world's logic but its underlying premises.

III. The principle: the old nature must be put off, and the new nature must be put on.

- A. The realities in Jesus Christ become true through this process.
- B. There is recognition of the pull of the old life to the Christian.
 - 1. Paul's appeal is to deny the underlying assumptions of the old life—all outlooks and attitudes.
 - 2. The former life results in misery and unhappiness.
 - 3. We recognize these attitudes because they are deceitful lusts—any urge or basic drive.
 - 4. These basic urges promise much, but they never satisfy.
 - 5. There is the urge to use others for our own advantage, to be impatient, to be defensive, etc.
- C. The old things are to be put off because these things are part of an old man.
 - 1. In the cross of Christ, Jesus judged the old life. (II Corinthians 5:21)
 - 2. All the urges from the self-life do nothing for us.
 - 3. The first step is to recognize that these things are the old life.
- D. The wonderful possibilities of the new man must be realized.
 - 1. The fundamental difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is that the Christian has been renewed.

2. The only change a non-Christian can make is a change to a different expression of the same old nature.

3. The old nature is no longer identified with the believer.

4. The new life is the life of Christ lived in the believer.

5. The righteous behavior we put on is true and genuine.

6. Holiness is to be put on that reflects wholeness.

E. The old man has been asphyxiating—the believer has a choice to make every time he recognizes the deceitful urges from within.

F. This is a process that absolutely works.

1. There is no trying—any failure is an excuse.

2. It is entirely dependent on Christ within.

Application questions:

1. Why can the speaker call the world ignorant when the world has made so many advances?

2. How would you characterize the old man?

3. Why is there no excuse for the believer who has failed to put on the new man? What is the believer's source of power for the urges of the flesh?
