DRESSED FOR SERVICE

While in high school I was a short order cook. I wore a white shirt, white pants, a full apron and a foldable side cap. In college I worked at a pharmaceutical plant. I wore doctors' scrubs, scrub cap and shoe covers. Later in college I worked at Inland Steel Mill in East Chicago and wore jeans, metatarsal shoes and a hard hat. Every piece of clothing was required.

People that know Christ have required garments to put on. First of all some things need to be removed. God is very serious about this, He desires us to die to the very nature that would demand sinful activity. After we deal with the removal of pollution, we are ready to incorporate the garments of our new nature.

I. Execution: Colossians 3:5

  A. Fornication: "porneuó" (sexual immorality)

  B. Uncleaness: "akatharsia" (without catharsis; impure)

  C. Inordinate affection: "ataktoi pathos" (affection which is out of the ranks")

  D. Evil Concupiscence: "kakos epithumia" (depraved, injurious longing for the forbidden).

  E. Covetousness: "pleonexia" (insatiable desire to have more).

II. Retribution: Colossians 3:5c-6

  A. A Rebuke to Be Heeded: *"For which things sake…"* What is idolatry? Idolatry is loving and worshipping anything or anyone in the place of God.

  B. A Wrath to Be Avoided: *"…the wrath of God…"*

C. An Association with Whom to Be Disassociated: *"…the children of disobedience."*

III. Decontamination: Colossians 3:6-9

A. Anger: "orgen" (indignant excitement of the mind)

B. Wrath: "thumos" (raging actions emerging out of strong impulses)

C. Malice: "kakia" (the underlying principle of evil which is present, even if not outwardly expressed; malignity; desire to injure)

D. Blasphemy: "blasphémia" (slanderous language, vilifying the Creator and venerating the Creature)

E. Filthy Communication: "aischrologia" (shameful, low and obscene speech)

F. Lie not: "me pseúdomai" (Do not deliberately speak falsehoods.)

IV. Glorification: Colossians 3:10-14

A. Renew: "anakainoó" (to make qualitatively new by moving from one stage to a higher and more developed one)

B. Knowledge: "epignósis" (knowledge gained through first-hand relationship)

C. Image: "eikón" (a replication; assumption of a prototype, of which it not merely resembles, but from which it is drawn)

D. Created: "ktizó" (to form, to shape, to make "ex nihilo": Latin, "out of nothing")

1. Created without barriers. Neither: "eni" (a word that allows the inclusion of others)
2. Created in the image of Jesus!

E. Bowels: "splagchnon" (the ability to feel gut-level empathy and sympathy)

F. Mercies: "oiktirmos" (the deep feelings God has for all of us, and powerfully shows and shares in those following Him)

G. Kindness: "chréstotés" ("Divine kindness", is the Spirit-produced goodness which meets the need and avoids human harshness or cruelty.)

H. Humbleness of Mind: "tapeinophrosune" (an inside-out virtue produced by comparing ourselves to the Lord, rather than to others. This brings behavior into alignment with this inner revelation to keep one from being self-exalting, self-determining, self-inflated.)

I. Meekness: "praiotes" (gentle strength, which expresses power with reserve and gentleness)

J. Longsuffering: "makrothumia" (divinely-regulated patience which avoids the premature use of force or retribution that rises out of the improper human reflex of anger)

K. Forbearing: "anechomai" (to hold oneself erect and firm against any person or thing, to sustain, to bear (with equanimity), to bear with, enduring and remaining the same through every change around you)

L. Forgiving: "charizomai" (extending grace, which is favor not based on merit of the recipient)

M. Quarrel: "momphé" (a complaint; a fault, blame)

V. Restoration: Colossians 3:14

A. Superimposition: *"And above all…"*

B. Juxtaposition: *"…put on charity…"*

C. Completion: *"…the bond…";* ("sundesmos": uniting as of a ligament) *"…of perfectness…";* ("teleiotés": in its cumulative sense, i.e. built on what *has to* precede and also supports the stage that must come next)