

10.20.27 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Clothe Yourself”

Scripture Reading: [Colossians 3:11-14](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

“What am I going to wear today?”

Have you ever asked yourself this question while standing in front of your closet?

There is an entire fashion industry that is here to help (or some of us might say hinder) us as we try to answer this question each day. To help us get a sense of just how big this industry is, and how many people are involved, and how many dollars are spent each year on the question of “What am I going to wear today?”, consider just a few of these clothing industry statistics.

- In 2019, over 1.8 million people were employed in the fashion sector in the US.
- In 2019, the fashion industry retail sales in the US were \$472.81 billion dollars; in 2020, on account of the Covid pandemic, they were \$369.39 billion dollars; in 2021 they are projected to be \$437.29 billion; in 2022 they are projected to be \$473.42 billion dollars.
- Womenswear is the best-selling apparel category globally. Its 2021 revenue amounts to \$876 billion.
- In 2020, the global fashion industry was worth \$1.5 trillion. It’s estimated that the global apparel market will be worth \$2.25 trillion by 2025 due to the high demand for clothing and shoes. The largest apparel markets in 2020 were the US, China, and Japan.

As you can see, a lot of time, money, and energy is spent around the world trying to help us answer the question “What am I going to wear today?”

In our text for this week, Colossians 3:11-14, the Apostle Paul dives headfirst into this fashion industry. Paul does so by giving us who are followers of Jesus Christ some fashion advice. In fact, it is not so much advice but rather commands about what we need to wear each day.

Listen again to what Paul says. He says, “...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Instead of spending so much time, energy, and money trying to set yourself apart by what you wear in terms of color, texture, fabric, length, and style, Paul says to us, who are chosen, and holy and dearly loved by God, that we need to instead set ourselves apart in terms of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love. Since these are the garments that God wears and demonstrates to each one of us, we as followers of God need to wear and demonstrate them as well to all whom we encounter each day.

Tell me, what would happen if compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love became the new standard for our fashion? What would happen to our workplaces? Our churches? Our classrooms, hallways, and cafeterias at school? Our neighborhoods? Our politics? Our social media feeds? Our roadways? Our...?

What would happen if instead of judging and categorizing people by the color, texture, fabric, and style of the clothes they wear or don't wear, we measured them by the compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love that they wear or don't wear?

What would happen to you and me if we clothed ourselves each day with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love?

Friends, each day (and sometimes multiple times throughout the day) we must figure out what we are going to wear. Each time we do, let us remember these verses from Colossians 3:11-14.

What are you going to wear today?

Prayer:

God, we are your chosen people who are holy and dearly loved by you. Thank you for choosing us. Thank you for making us holy. Thank you for loving us dearly. Thank you for being compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, patient, forgiving, and loving to us. You are so gracious with us. Help us to be the same with those around us. Spirit of God, each day, clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love. AMEN

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Write out or print out Colossians 3:11-14 on a sheet of paper. Hang it on your closet door or wherever you keep your clothes. For the next month, each time you get dressed or change your clothes during the day, read these verses before figuring out what you are going to wear.

Songs for today:

[Mighty to Save](#)

[Selah III](#)