



Week Three:
GRACE THAT CLOTHES US
Sermon Seeds

SUNDAY MAY 12, 2019

KEY VERSES

You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. — Galatians 3:26-28 (CEB)

SUGGESTED VERSES FOR WORSHIP

Galatians 3:23-28

KEY CONCEPT

We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ, not through obedience to the law. This is symbolized by our baptism as we are cleansed by Christ, clothed by Christ, and made one in Christ.

SERMON HELPS

This passage in Galatians speaks to who we are in Jesus Christ.

Adopted into God's family as God's children

- *"Just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,' so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham (vs. 6, 7).*
- *By faith we are no longer prisoners (vs. 23).*
- *By faith we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian (vs.24).*
- *In Christ we are all God's children through faith (vs.26).*

Personal Connection/Illustration

Some experiences in life are transformational; they make us who we are at the present moment, especially the moment of our conversion. Invite the congregation to revisit their conversion as an experience of grace.

There are also numerous moments through the years when our human families change and grow – the birth of a new child, the adoption of a pet, the marriage of a family member, etc. Consider the stories you know of individuals and families being transformed through these times.

Clothed with Christ Himself

- Christ came that we might be justified by faith (*vs. 26*).
- Through baptism we celebrate the initiation into Christ's family, dying to our old self and putting on our new self/clothing.
- To be clothed with Christ may refer to the early Christian practice of putting on a white baptismal robe, to signify the putting on Christ's characteristics.

Personal Connection/Illustration

A few years, okay a number of years back (2003-2013), there was a popular show called "What Not to Wear" hosted by Stacy and Clinton. They would approach unsuspecting people and trash their wardrobe; give advice on what people should wear and then give them the funds to replace their clothing. In a sense Christ has shown us what not to wear and what to put on.

One people together, regardless of what separates us.

- In Christ there is no racial, social or gender distinctions, because all are one. Our differences are no longer divisions or distinctions.
- Those who belong to Christ are both Abraham's true descendants and heirs of the promise made to him.

Personal Connection/Illustration

Remember the Titans: a movie about different groups, but one team. Each player brought his unique talents to play a certain position, but they had the same goal to win.

Or as this is Mother's Day, speak to the different positions each family/church member has, each with unique gifts that when put together makes the family/church stronger.

Theological Connection/Illustration

Justifying Grace, that moment we say "yes" to God and lay down the old and put on the new.

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