

## It's Time to Put Our Church Clothes On! Genesis 3

It's been 3 months since most of us have had to put our church clothes on!  
How many of us had to check last night to make sure they still fit?

It is great to see so many of you this morning, and you all look so nice...

Today I want to talk about church clothes, but not the kind you wear only on Sundays, the kind the Church is called to wear every day of our lives!

Let's look back in history to the first clothes ever made. What purpose did they serve, and what did God do to improve the quality? **Genesis 3**

Adam & Eve sinned against God and the immediate consequence was – **vs. 7**  
**"The eyes of both of them were opened, & they knew that they were naked..."**

Adam & Eve's first reaction to their sin was to cover themselves by **"sewing fig leaves together and making themselves loincloths."**

The first clothes ever made were made to cover nakedness! Duh!!! But how did they know what nakedness was, & why they needed to cover themselves?

**Vs. 8 - "They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, & the man & his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord among the trees of the garden."** They not only covered themselves, they hid!

When a person can truly see good & evil, & they come into the presence of a Holy God, their sin is exposed, along with guilt & shame! This is why they clothed themselves & hid, & this is when fear was introduced into the world

**"And he (Adam) said, 'I heard the sound of you (God) in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself'" – Vs. 10**

They knew they were naked, but it wasn't their body parts they feared being exposed, it was their hearts! Fear comes when who we really are gets exposed!

It's why we by nature push God away and try to keep Him at a distance! It's also why we keep each other at a safe distance away – for what will they think?

Adam & Eve made clothes to try to protect themselves, but their sin was still exposed before God! God responds by making them new clothes & a promise!

The man-made clothes, out of fig leaves, could never hold up in this new world.

They needed something more, and God provided it for them! **"And the Lord God made for Adam & his wife garments of skins & clothed them!" – Vs. 21**

These clothes would be much better, but they required a sacrifice being made.  
If they were made of skins, then something needed to die to provide for it!

Something had to die to alleviate their fear! God made huge advancements in clothing in the Garden of Eden, but the upgrades weren't done yet!

**Isaiah 61:10 – "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness..."** These clothes weren't made in China! Nor the USA!

Even the clothes made in the Garden, by God Himself, weren't sufficient for dealing with the nakedness/shame caused by sin! We needed something more!

But what are the clothes that Isaiah is prophesying about here in Isaiah 61:10?

**Romans 13:14 – "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify it's desires."** It's no longer a garment, but a person!

God provided a new set of clothes in the person of Jesus Christ, that by faith our sin & shame are no longer simply covered, they are removed from us.

How? Not by "something" needing to die this time, but "someone", in order to make these salvation clothes possible – Jesus Christ Himself!

When Christ's own righteousness is placed upon us, our polluted garments are removed! Even our best man-made clothes are filthy rags in comparison!

We have been given "Church clothes", by God Himself, to wear as we go through this life! They are not just intended for Sunday, but for every day!

And no, it's not a suit & tie or a pretty dress, it is Christ Himself that we get to put on by faith! Being clothed in Christ removes all fear of exposure!

If God knows us inside & out, and He accepts us and loves us in Christ, then who or what should we fear? **Romans 8:37-39**

If you don't have your "Church clothes" on, it's time to get dressed, because Christ is not something we put on & and take off!

Let us say as Job said, **"I put on righteousness, and it clothed me..." – Job 29:14**

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