

Dressing Up, & Not Just For Halloween! The Book of Colossians

Halloween is a week away! **Are you dressing up this year?**

Why do we find such excitement in doing this? It's not for candy anymore!

- Halloween provides us w/ the opportunity to be someone/something else!
- Costumes provide us w/ the opportunity to cover up what's underneath!
- We may not be superheroes, but for one day out of the year we can be!

I wonder, are we attracted to Christianity for the same reasons?

- Christianity provides the opportunity to be someone/something we're not?
- In Christ we get to cover up (transform) what's underneath!
- Yes, we may not be superheroes, but **we the Church get to be the hope of the world through Christ**, & we get to wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God! Thor's hammer is nothing compared to this weapon!
- **But what's even better is that our costume/new identity is permanent!**

All that we love about Halloween, Christianity actually provides for us, & infinitely more! Halloween is a dress-up party! **But Christianity is a life-transforming, Christ-reflecting, God-glorifying, eternal reality!**

Too often our excitement, our desires, our joy, get hijacked by lesser things!

- How many kids do you think will be trick-or-treating next Monday? **How many of those same kids do you think will be in Church** the day before?
- What costumes do you think are most popular for Halloween? **Images** **Where do you think dressing up/looking more like Jesus falls on that list?**
- It gives us great joy to dress up like agents of fear, torture, & death, but what is our level of joy when it comes to putting on the things of Christ?

I'm not anti-Halloween, but I am far more excited about Christ, the Church, and who we get to truly become - because of the work of Christ in our lives!

Halloween doesn't change our identity just because we put on a costume! **But in Christ, we actually become what we put on! Colossians 3:1-17**

As Christians we are called to put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, & love – all attributes of God!

Like pieces of a costume that reflect His identity, we put these things on, trusting that there is more to it than just playing dress-up!

As Christians, we have been raised with Christ to a new life, therefore we are to live everyday as if that is true! Because it is!

***"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."* – Colossians 3:1-2**

***"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you..."* – Colossians 3:5**

***"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy & beloved..."* Colossians 3:12-14**

If it were only that easy! We are called to reflect Christ in our lives, but too often we look more like the costumes we put on for Halloween!

- The grim reaper – Our lives look more like death than they do life!
- The old man – We live with the desires of our old flesh, over the new!
- Waldo – We walk through life as if we are lost, rather than living our lives as those who have been found!

You don't need to wear a costume if your identity has truly been changed! It's not about looking or dressing a certain way; it's about living a new life!

***"As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith..."* - Colossians 2:6-7**

***"For in Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him..."* - Colossians 2:9-10**

***"Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him (Jesus) from the dead."* - Colossians 2:12**

***"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses..."* - Colossians 2:13**

How do we not only embrace these truths, but also live out of this new identity, so that it's more than just a temporary costume we wear?

Colossians 3:16-17 - receive, share, teach, sing, give thanks, & live for Christ!

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