

Colossians 3:1-17  
A New Suit

When I was a way bit younger, I vividly remember the excitement around Easter in our home. My brothers and I looked to this time of year with great excitement because we knew Easter would bring a new suit of clothing and new shiny dress shoes. Stacie Adams, to be specific. I remember one suit and pair of shoes specifically. The suit was double-breasted. It was a mix between burgundy and purple (burple), with a faint pink pinstripe. The material had a sheen to it. It was sharp. Would not pass today, but back then it was it. The shoes were deep burgundy, patent leather, wing tip Stacie Adams. I had a pink dress shirt with a burgundy tie to match. Sisters and Brothers, I was sharp. On the outside I was put together and when I stepped into the church house on that Easter Sunday, I looked the part. Resurrection Sunday for me at that time meant putting on your best suit or dress for God and eating a very good meal. And this was my understanding well into my late teen and early young adult years. It would be some time in my faith journey before I understood the far-reaching implications of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Implications that went much further than a new suit and Easter brunch. Eventually, I came to understand that the death and resurrection of Jesus meant that I too had died and risen and that the evidence of my rising went well beyond new Easter threads. The Apostle Paul certainly got it. Not sure when he got, or how long it took, but he got it and he shares it, the far-reaching implications of the resurrection, in our text. So, I want to share this Easter Sunday, as we celebrate

the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, as we proclaim that he is no longer in the tomb, that he is risen and therefor there is still hope for a lost and dying world, three ways, drawn from the text, that the resurrection has changed life for us, disciples of Jesus Christ.

**First, the resurrection results in a new perspective. V 1-4** The resurrection moves us from an emphasis on temporary things to eternal ones. This is not to say that the temporary things of life are unimportant. No, we are not so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good. But rather it is our heavenly mindedness that positions us to produce that which is truly good for the glory of God and the good of others in the here and now. Church, the resurrection gives us a new perspective, a heavenly one. And it is this heavenly perspective that reshapes who we are and what we do. This new perspective changes how we see the world. How we see one another. So, I ask us this Resurrection Sunday, are we seeking the things above or are we preoccupied with temporary things, earthly things? Have we set our minds where Christ is? Christ has risen and through faith in him so have we!

**2 Cor 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

**Phil 4:8-9** “<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.<sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

**Second, the resurrection empowers us. V5** If any of the things that Paul has listed remain in us it isn't due to the gospel's

inability to deliver us from these things. We indeed have been delivered, remember the 2 Corinthian 5:17 text. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” No, if any of these things remain it’s because we have not done what Paul instructs. “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth”. In other words, we are to deprive these things of power in our lives. They may lurk in us, they may even beckon for our allegiance, but these things no longer rule us because the resurrection empowers us. Church, we have the power to say no. We can resist. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has made this possible. Are we doing such?

**Romans 6:12-13** “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”

**Titus 2:11-14** “<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.”

**Finally, the resurrection clothes us with a new suit, metaphorically speaking. V12, 14** Just as sharp as I was on that Easter Sunday some time ago, God through the giving of His Son, had made me just as sharp spiritually. I may not have

understood that at the time, nor was I fully walking in it then, but it was true. Not just for me but for all who believe. It may not have been evident to me or those around me, but I know it was so because look at me now. Look at us. What God starts; God finishes. This is why we, disciples of Christ, never give up on anyone. We condemn no one. It isn't over until it is over. Through faith in Jesus, we have been given a new suit, metaphorically speaking. Wear it for all to see! Not just on Easter Sunday but everyday of our lives. Christ has risen indeed, and so have we. A new suit, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.