

CLOTHS



Clothes are an important part of our daily lives. If we did not wear any clothes, we would be very embarrassed. Clothes hide our shame. Clothes also protect us from the weather. We have clothes to keep us warm, clothes that keep us dry in the rain, and clothes that are made for hot weather.

You may not know this but God created the very first clothes. Adam and Eve walked around without clothes in the Garden of Eden and were not ashamed since they had not fallen into sin. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command not to eat the forbidden fruit, they fell into sin and were ashamed of their nakedness. God punished Adam and Eve for what they did but He did not send them out of the Garden of Eden naked. As we learn in Genesis 3:21, "God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."

What can we learn from God's creation of clothes?

God uses the example of clothing to assure us that He will always love and protect us. Using our need for clothes, Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:28-30, "Why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire,

will he not much more clothe you?" God knows what we need and will provide everything for us according to His great wisdom. God's love is for everyone no matter how they are dressed. If your clothes are plain or fancy, expensive or cheap, new or worn out, God loves you all the same. In the Bible we are told that it is wrong to show favor to someone who is well-dressed while looking down at someone who is not well-dressed. This lesson is found in James, chapter 2 verses 1-13. God loves the poor and the rich equally.

God protects us from many things and in many ways. One of the most basic types of God's protection is clothing. Clothes protect us from the shame of our nakedness and from the weather. Our faith in Jesus is like clothing to keep us from being ashamed of our sin since Jesus took our sins away and He took our shame away also. We are taught in the Bible to live as if Jesus is coming back any moment and to remain awake in our faith. Revelations 16:15 teaches us, "Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him

so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." Jesus covers our sins and keeps us from shame before God the Father. This Bible passage tells us not to ignore the forgiveness of sins that Jesus earned for us on the cross. The Bible also says in 1st John 2:28, "Continue in him (faith in Jesus) so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming (when Jesus will return to take us to heaven)."

God uses the example of clothing to teach us about how our actions make us appear. When we do wrong and sin, we are clothed in shame. The Bible tells us in Job 8:22 that those who are the enemies of God will be made ashamed, "Your enemies will be clothed in shame." God uses clothes, which we all need and understand, to teach us how sin makes us ashamed of what we are. In Psalm 109:29 we learn how people who lie about other people will be clothed in shame, "My accusers will be clothed with disgrace and wrapped in shame as in a cloak." People who disobey God

may think that they are getting away without punishment but they do not as the Bible teaches us in Ezekiel 7:27, "The king will mourn, the prince will be clothed with despair and the hands of the people of the land will tremble. I will deal with them according to their conduct and by their own standards I will judge them. Then they will know that I am the Lord."

When we live by our faith in Jesus and obey the teachings of the Bible we have a different type of clothes. Rather than being clothed in shame, we are clothed in righteousness - not because we are good but because Jesus was good and gave us His goodness as a gift. We learn from the Bible in Galatians 3:26-27, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus for all of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ." What this means is that we are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus rather than in our own sins. The Bible teaches us in Romans 13:14, "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful

nature." We should be thinking about how to please God in what we say and do rather than trying to please our sinful desires.

God also uses clothing to teach us about eternal life. In 1st Corinthians 15:53 the Bible teaches us that our sinful lives must be covered in Jesus' righteousness and our weak and dying bodies must be clothed in eternal life when it says, "For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality." This is the great gift that God gives us because of what Jesus has done for us. We are weak and sinful now but we will have eternal life thanks to Jesus. The Bible gives us another example of being clothed with eternal joy in heaven in 2nd Corinthians 5:1-3, "Now we know that if the earthly tent (our body) we live in is destroyed we have a building from God, an eternal house (our eternal resurrected body) in heaven not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling because when we are clothed we will not be found naked." We eagerly look forward to living

in heaven forever pure and free of sin rather than being ashamed of ourselves because of our sins.

