



LIFEgroup Homework

Week of March 29, 2009

Dressing for Success

Ephesians 4:17-24

Dressing for success means to put clothing on your body that matches the success you hope to have in life. God's concept of "dressing for success" has nothing to do with those kinds of external clothing. God is not impressed with what we look like on the outside, but on the inside. The Lord made this clear when He spoke to Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7, "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." NIV

Pastor Stan helped us to see that God desires to teach us how to take off the old and put on the new... spiritually.

Sharing Question:

What is the favorite piece of clothing in your closet right now? Why?

Tell of a time when it "never felt better" to take off your dirty, smelly, rancid, cold, sticky, muddy, and putrefying garments:

Getting Started (questions):

What was one "action point" you identified from the sermon?

Homework:

Read Ephesians 4:17-24

How are Christians different from non-Christians?

Do Christians necessarily live better lives than pre-Christians?

Contrast the life of the Gentile (unbeliever) with that of a true believer?

Verse 18: The Gentiles (unbelievers) have a spiritual condition known as "hardness of heart." In your own words, describe what this affliction looks like:

Verse 17-19: What are the symptoms of this affliction?

Read Romans 1:18-27

What happens to people who harden their hearts toward God?

What is that evidence of man's "hardened heart" in our world today?

How have you struggled with hardness of heart?

Verse 22: What does it mean to "put off your old self"?

Verse 23: How have your attitudes changed recently?

Verse 24: Describe, in your own words, what it means to "put on the new self".

When you "put on the new self" what difference does it make in your life?

Pastor Stan called this the "Spiritual Replacement Principle:"

- 1) Take off the old self with its deceitful desires (urges)
- 2) Renew the mind with God's truth
- 3) Put on the new self (righteousness and holiness)

Which is the hardest to do?

Read the following verses and write down what it tells you about your new self in Christ:

Romans 6:6-11

Colossians 3:5-10

James 1:21

Memory Verse:

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV



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