

Introduction to Q2

Last quarter, we focused on developing the proper perspective of God and ourselves, then on building an authentic relationship with Him. Now, we shift our focus to how discipleship is lived out in our relationships with others. Jesus said that the world will recognize His disciples by their love for one another (**John 13:35**). Our actions and attitudes toward others reflect our discipleship.

The classes for our second quarter are taken from **Colossians 3:12–15** and **Ephesians 4:21–28**. Paul tells us to “put on” or “clothe ourselves” with virtues that reflect the nature of Christ. This is also found in many other scriptures, such as **Colossians 3:10**, **Romans 13:12, 14** and **Galatians 3:27**.

Lessons from the Clothing Metaphor

1. **Intentional Action:** Just like changing clothes requires a conscious decision, so does removing sinful behaviors such as anger, malice, and gossip. Likewise, putting on virtues like kindness, humility, and patience requires deliberate effort.
2. **A Change in Identity:** Clothing often represents identity. By taking off the "old self" and putting on the "new self", we embrace a new identity in Christ, reflecting His character.
3. **Ongoing Process:** Just as we dress daily, the process of putting off sin and putting on righteousness is a continual practice. We must choose daily to clothe ourselves with Christlike attributes.
4. **A Visible Transformation:** Clothing is seen by others, and so is our behavior. When we put on compassion, humility, and love, others can see the transformation in our lives, reflecting Christ to the world.

While we play a part in putting on our new nature, we do not have to do it alone. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, our old self was put to death, and now we get to live as a new creation in Him. And the best part? God isn’t finished with us yet! He promises to continue His work in us, shaping us to reflect His divine nature and giving us all we need to grow in Him (**Romans 6:3–4**, **Romans 6:6**, **2 Corinthians 5:17**, **Philippians 1:6**, **2 Peter 1:3**).

Challenge

Walking as a disciple means choosing to put off the old self and put on the new each day. This is a process we cannot do in our own strength, but God has given us all we need to overcome.

Spend time in prayer this week, thanking God for how He has already transformed your life. There may be much to learn and grow in, but we must be thankful for what He has already done to give us hope for the rest.

