



Does My Wearing of Christ Bring Him Honor?

● Children in a family will have resemblance to the parents. As I grow in Christ, do people see the beauty of His dwelling in me — His compassion, His forgiveness, His love, His desire for the salvation of souls that brought Him to the cross?

● Do I wear Christ in my desire that God's Word will be my directive in life, with the submissive attitude, *"...not my will but Thine be done"* (Luke 22:42). Do people see my faith in God's involvement in my life, and my trust that He will do for me what He sees is best? Do they see the peace that results from total surrender to the wearing of Christ? *"Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"* (Matthew 6:30-33).

● When we are buried with Christ in baptism, we are taking to ourselves the costliest gar-

ment known to man: the covering of our Lord's blood. Through that red veil, we stand cleansed in the perfection of Christ before our Father. *"... you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"* (1 Peter 1:18,19).

The Choice Is Ours

● Do we make ourselves a house where our Lord can be pleased to dwell, as we grow in our love for God and for our fellow man, worshipping, doing good, teaching the lost to be saved?

● Or do we live in such worldliness that He is continually hurt and stifled by our behavior? Will He stay with us, or might we force Him to leave?

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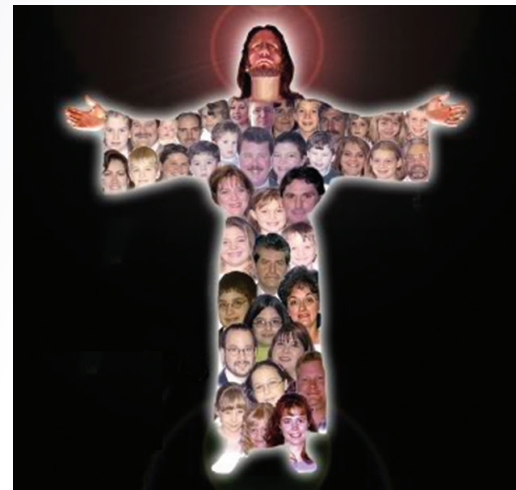
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How Do I Wear Christ?

Betty Burton Choate





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On the one hand the Scriptures speak of **the Christian being clothed with Christ** (*“For as many of you as were immersed into Christ clothed yourselves with Christ.”* Galatians 3:27; McCord Translation). We were washed in His blood in baptism (*“To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood...”* Revelation 1:5); and we are to wear His righteousness.

As we go about our daily lives, people are to see Christ in our behavior, not ourselves (*“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts”* Romans 13:14).

On the other hand, the Scriptures speak of **Christ dwelling in the Christian**: *“...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”* (Ephesians 3:16,17).

This means that **whatever we do, wherever we go**, we take Christ with us — that He is in us (Romans 8:9,10).

Does My Wearing of Christ Bring Him Shame?

● As brothers and sisters of Christ, members of His family, we obviously must grow in being *“partakers of divine nature”* (2 Peter 1:4). This means that we learn to think, act and react according to His standards and values, as we develop “the mind of Christ”. People who know us should have unwavering confidence that whatever we say or do, we will be bringing honor to Christ, our Brother.

● *“... out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”* (Matthew 12:34). Do we subject Christ to fits of anger, pouting, grudges, and bad language, in response to problems which occur in life? Do we portray Him to the world with these attitudes, betraying the fact that our **hearts** do not match our claims to be “Christ like”? Are we telling lies on Him?

● It is said that many Christian men are addicted to pornography, available to them over the Internet. Perhaps this temptation seems more difficult to resist because it comes in the privacy of one’s office, in confidence that no one else will ever know. But God knows. Would Christ — the One with whom you are clothed — feel violated by your choice of entertainment?

● It is an equally shameful fact that some Christian women dress with embarrassing immodesty: low, wide necklines; spaghetti strap tops; skirts so short it is a continual struggle to keep from exposing underwear; pants or stretch leggings so tight they fit like a second skin — clothes designed to create lust in the eyes of male on-lookers. Can we imagine that Christ is not offended by such exposure and temptation?

● It is not only by what we wear or what we use for entertainment that we can betray our Lord. We are told clearly *“...do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your **body** and in your **spirit**, which are God’s”* (1 Corinthians 6:19,20). Do we mistreat our bodies (and Christ, as we are clothed with Him) through our worldly habits, partaking of alcohol, nicotine, and other harmful substances?

● We are to *“walk in the steps of Jesus”* (1 Peter 2:21). Do we take Him to places where He would not choose to go, being concerned only that a friend or brother not see us in a questionable place, but having no thought that everything is open before the eyes of God?