



COMPLETE - 6: COMPLETELY COVERED

We are in week six of our series called, Complete. We have been diving into the book of Colossians where we're discovering that we are complete, whole, fulfilled through nothing else other than Jesus Christ who is the fullness of God in the flesh. This is pretty much the main point of what the Apostle Paul writes about in his letter to the church in Colossae.

Here are things we have learned to be true for followers of Jesus:

- We are complete in Christ.
- We can be complete despite suffering.
- Our sins are completely canceled.
- We are completely called.
- And this week, we seek to discover how we are completely covered.

1. WHEN YOU GET READY FOR SOMETHING—A JOB INTERVIEW, A WEDDING, YARD WORK—HOW DOES WHAT

Last week we talked about how to “put on” something oftentimes means you have to “take off” something else. Sure, you could layer your clothes like you're deep in winter and want to make sure you've got enough warmth. But you don't layer nasty, dirty clothes over nasty, dirty clothes. You take off your nasty, dirty clothes, and you put on your clean, nice suit coat. Same thing spiritually. And this is where many of us go wrong. We don't let go of the past; we just try to cover it up. And that never works. You can't hold onto your anger, resentment, pride, self-centeredness, sexual sin, or greed, while you just layer the Gospel over it, and then think that no one will notice. No, that sin is still in there. It has to be dealt with. It has to be surrendered. And here's the good news: It can be removed. You can't do it. We can't make ourselves clean. But Jesus can.

- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7, ESV)
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9, ESV)

2. WHAT SINS, GUILT, OR FAILURES ARE YOU STILL DRAGGING BEHIND YOU?



MESSAGE GUIDE

For Nov. 23,
2025



COLOSSIANS 3:12-4:1
RICK GROVER,
LEAD PASTOR

It's time to "put to death" (Col. 3:5) whatever has been holding you back, so that you can put on the freedom and new, clean identity given to you in Jesus Christ. So, what is this new, clean identity?

Read Colossians 3:12-14.

Our outside "clothing" is a natural overflow of what Jesus has made us internally. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.... (Colossians 3:12, ESV). Let those words sink in. You are CHOSEN. You are HOLY. You are BELOVED. Identity is given to us by the One who created us. It's not something we fabricate or make up or create. Our identity is not some narrative we can imagine and make ourselves to be!

God has chosen us and declares us to be holy, to be beloved—Even when we were a wreck and a mess. But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8, ESV)

What we wear determines how we think and act. Paul goes on to say, Put on... compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (Colossians 3:12-13, ESV)

There's a term psychologists use for how what we wear actually impacts our actions and attitudes.

Encloded Cognition: The meaning and symbolism of clothing can influence our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. Who are you in Christ? — Chosen, holy, and beloved. On your good days and your bad days. And what does someone who is chosen, holy, and beloved look like—what do they act like?

Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Meekness, Patience, Forgiveness

3. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DID NOT DISPLAY COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, MEEKNESS, PATIENCE, OR FORGIVENESS?

If we are not putting on these things all the time, then does that mean we're really not chosen, holy, and beloved? That's what some churches teach, but that's not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches us that: We are and we are becoming. We are complete in Christ, and we are growing into that completeness.



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The church has the important role of calling out what God has placed in. He has given you His grace, His unconditional love, and when you receive it, embrace it, open your life to it, His presence changes your presence, and you are given a new nature, a new identity. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

Challenge: This week read back through this passage back in Col. 3:12-14 at least one time every day and hear the words of Jesus Himself saying to you, “I have chosen you. You are holy. You are beloved,” and then from that truth, begin to choose your actions based on your interactions with Jesus, and grow in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness.

In verse 14, Paul tells us to put on what is most important. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Colossians 3:14, ESV).

In many other passages we see love at the top of the qualities of being clothed with Christ:

- “These three remain: faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:13).
- Jesus said the greatest commandments are to ... love: love God and love your neighbor.
- For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love (2 Peter 1:5-7, ESV).

The rest of chapter 3 and through Col. 4:1, Paul makes sure that the Colossians don’t just see this as some theoretical, ethereal, theological discussion. Paul puts all of this in the real context of real people living in real time with real problems. Let the peace of Christ rule.... Let the word of Christ dwell.... And whatever you do...do everything in the name of Jesus. (Colossians 3:14-17, ESV)

And who should do this? Wives (v. 18). Husbands (v. 19). Children (v. 20). Fathers (v. 21). Employees (v. 22). Bosses (4:1). In other words, all of us!

4. WHAT NEXT STEP WILL YOU TAKE TO “PUT ON” WHO YOU ARE—HOLY, CHOSEN, AND BELOVED BY GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST?