

Stop "Dressing" Like Pagans!

The Key Verse in This Series

"So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking." - Ephesians 4:17

Is It Appropriate to Say "Stop It" at Times?

"Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." - John 5:14

Let's Review

- Stop Being Divisive. (Humility, Gentleness, Patience)
- Stop Being (Spiritual) Babies. (Grow Up! 7X)
- Stop Being Deceitful. (You have the truth!)

The Continuing Theme

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self...²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God..." - Ephesians 4:22,24

Today's Scripture

"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." - Ephesians 4:25-32

Five Garments to "Take Off" and Five to "Put On"

1. Put off falsehood and put on honesty toward one another.
 - Pagans lie to one another; Believers don't.
2. Put off sinful angry outbursts and put on proper anger management.

Two principles for anger management:

- Process your anger the same day.
- Don't give the devil an easy target. (foothold/opportunity)

3. Put off stealing and put on sharing.
 - People who steal are often lazy. They must work to understand the value of the things that they've been stealing.
 - This is a heart change. If you can learn to be a giver instead of a taker/stealer it will change your very nature.
4. Put off inappropriate talk and put on encouragement.
 - Think about others and their needs.
 - Not everyone will listen.
5. Put off hatefulness and put on kindness.
 - Bitterness – a smoldering, unforgiving spirit
 - Rage and Anger – wrath, explosive anger, from selfishness
 - Brawling and slander – public outbursts, "blasphemos"
 - Every form of malice – anything else
- Compassionate kindness is the way.
- Forgiving as you've been forgiven is the key.

Why Does A Christian Dress Like This?

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." - Ephesians 5:1,2

1. Because we want to imitate our Lord.

"And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:27

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." - 1 Corinthians 11:1
2. Because we want to think of others, not just ourselves.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." - Philippians 2:3
3. Because we don't want to grieve the Holy Spirit.

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." - Ephesians 4:30

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit..." - Ephesians 1:13

What Is Your "Take-Away"?

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- Stop Being (Spiritual) _____. (Grow Up! 7X)
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