

# What the Best Dressed Christians are Wearing?

Well, what are the best dressed Christians wearing this season? It should be what Jesus was modelling. Let's see what Paul said they were:

**Colossians 3:12** (NKJV) – *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

So that's:

- tender mercies,
- kindness,
- humility,
- meekness, &
- longsuffering.

How are you going putting on these pieces?

Ruth shared the following excerpt from Joanna Weaver's book to help us come to grips with this fashion.

*"When we put on Christ-when we put on His heart and His attitudes-something marvelous happens! We are able to act in ways that don't come naturally. Paul implies that, when we put on the qualities of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience he describes in Colossians 3:12, we will be able to respond rather than react to life. For one thing, we will be able to "bear with each other" (verse 13).*

*I don't know about you, but I could use some help with that one. For on my own, I'm more likely to be a bear than to bear with someone else's behavior, attitudes, and annoying statements. I'm more likely to insist that everyone put up with me than to put out any effort to put up with them. The following little paragraph made me laugh, but it also sums up the kind of self-centered existence to which I'm naturally inclined:*

*If you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could get used to that. And another thing: before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. That wouldn't bother me either. If you're a mama bear, everyone knows you mean business; you swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them, too. Your husband expects you to growl when you wake up. He expects you to have hairy legs and excess body fat. He likes it. I wish I were a bear!*

*Wearing Christ means we don't have the luxury of such silliness. Besides, I've found that living selfishly rarely brings me happiness or satisfaction. For I wasn't created for me-centered living. Neither were you. We were created to give our lives away. To bear with one another.*

*When we clothe ourselves with the attitudes Paul recommends, the ones Christ practiced and modeled for us, we are able to live and love without making demands. And we are freed to serve without resenting the demands others place on us.*

*"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another," Colossians 3:13-14 says. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

*Now that is an outfit I want to wear! Tender yet tough. Willing to get dirty yet Teflon coated. Quick to forgive but slow to give up. Willing to let go of offenses in order to hold on to relationships. And love makes the whole outfit work. Holding everything in place, belting it all together in heavenly perfection.*

*Making us look more and more like Jesus – and less and less like the world. ”<sup>1</sup>*

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1 – Joanna Weaver (2006) "Having a Mary Spirit" Waterbrook Press: Santa Rosa, CA p:222-223

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