

Not Naked and Not Afraid

Ponder: Being clothed and confident

Scripture: “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Gen. 3:10, NKJV).

Sin ruins everything! God created Adam and Eve sinless. They had no use for clothing in the paradise garden and felt no embarrassment. But then they sinned. Suddenly they became self-conscious. Their clumsy efforts to cover their bodies reflected their desire to cover their sin. And when they heard God walking in the garden, rather than welcoming His presence, they hid from Him!

Sin still produces shame and fear. But hiding ourselves and our sins from God works no better for us than it did for Adam and Eve! That’s the bad news. The good news is that you don’t have to be naked and afraid. Instead, you can be clothed and confident.

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27). That is, you have clothed yourselves with Christ. He is the garment that covers you. Of course this involves a radical change in your behavior, which God’s word likens to taking off filthy clothes and putting on clean ones. Your wardrobe must no longer include anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language, or lying (Col. 3:8-9). Replace those vile clothes with tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness, and love (Col. 3:12-14). Remember, you are clothed with Christ, and those are “clothes” that He wore!

Being clothed with Christ, you need not be afraid like Adam and Eve were in Eden. Jesus’ blood had cleansed you from sin, and you have a clean new set of clothes! In fact, John wrote that we can have boldness (not arrogance, but confidence) in the day of judgment (1 John 4:17). He went on to say, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (v. 18).

Rejoice in the love of Christ! Be clothed and confident!

Song: “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, how thankful we are to You that we can be clothed with Christ and confident in the day of judgment. Help us to put our trust in Jesus and live in a way that glorifies Him. In His name, Amen.