

# SPIRITUAL CLOTHING

---

WHAT KIND OF SPIRITUAL CLOTHING DO YOU WEAR? DOES IT MATTER?  
WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS SUBJECT?

You need to know what Almighty God has to say about your spiritual clothing; it will make a difference as to whether or not you will be allowed in Gods kingdom.

Ask yourself; why did people first start wearing clothes anyway? It all began back in the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve were first created, they didn't wear clothes. When Adam was busy giving names to all of the animals and learning that among them not one was suitable for a wife whereby he could reproduce himself; all the while he was naked. Doesn't that strike you as odd? Why didn't God give him some clothes to wear? Then after Eve was created out of Adams rib they still didn't have any clothes. God was thoughtful enough to clothe the animals with their fur, and feathers and such the like; so why didn't he give man clothes from the very beginning? To understand this we first need to realize that man was made in the Image of God; but not just in the image of what God was like then, but in the image of what God is doing. Adam was made first and was alone, just like the Word of God who later was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1: 1-3). Adam had the Word with him, just like the Word had God (the Father) with him; but he didn't have a wife whereby he could reproduce himself. God had all of his creation of angles, and they are sons of God by being his creations, but God wanted to actually reproduce himself and have children who were made up of his own seed, with his own character and abilities. God wanted children who would be born, and not just created. Adam was in a similar situation: he had all of the created animals under his authority and power, yet not one of them was suitable for a help meet (wife) for himself. Then God made a statement saying that it is not good that the man should be alone. God knows this because he had been in this situation for all eternity in the past. So God created Eve out of Adams rib in the Image of what the Word was going to do with

the specially called out saints (the church). The church is to be married to Christ at his second coming (Rev. 19: 7-8). The Church is created out of Christ's flesh and bones (Spirit and character) even as Eve was made out of Adams flesh and bones (Eph. 5: 25-32). Eve was made in the Image of the born again church. Adam and Eve were both naked and yet they had no shame (Gen. 2: 25). Now God didn't make the human body a thing to be ashamed of. This nakedness with no shame is speaking spiritually as well as physical. At this point neither Adam nor Eve had sinned, so they could be completely open and honest with each other, and they had nothing in their minds or hearts, or deeds to be ashamed of. They were still completely at one with each other and with God. It was after that they had sinned that they were ashamed, for now they both knew that they were guilty and exposed to each other as well as to God. They now felt the need to hide themselves from each other, so they made themselves clothes of leaves. The nature of sin causes shame and division. When they heard God coming, they still farther tried to hide from God (Gen. 3: 8). The Physical was only a type of the spiritual nakedness. The physical nor the spiritual nakedness didn't shame them until they had done wrong, then they were feeling guilty and ashamed. All sin is against God and also against our fellow humans. The results of sin does hurt and harm to our fellow man or woman. To avoid conflict and shame people who sin against others try to hide it by lies, and other deceptions. Jesus called these deceptions and lies a **cloak** which they used to cover and hide their sins from others as well as their own selves (John 15: 22). When you study the writings of the Apostles, you see that is the main reason that the religious leaders of Jesus' days hated him and wanted to shut his mouth, and kill him: Because Jesus spoke the truth, and the truth removed their spiritual cloaks. They realized that they were spiritually naked before Jesus and the rest of the people. Instead of repenting, as they should have when they saw their spiritual nakedness, they just lied and turned to farther sin by hating the one who brought the truth.

Satan the devil is the god of this world (2: Cor. 4: 4) and he works in the hearts and minds of unsuspecting people to pit them one against another (Eph. 2: 2) by all manner of sin. Often times, people don't want to present themselves to others, especially their family and friends and coworkers in such an abrasive

manner, so they just lie and deceive others and even their own selves about what they are really like. A wife or husband doesn't want to admit that their hearts go a whoring after others, so they lie to each other. They cannot be naked honest before each other and have no shame. As a result they are not unified; they are divided against each other. Satan causes division and hate between people who should love one another and be able to be honest with each other. All of this Satan influenced world must wear a cloak to hide who they really are. People love their own selves enough that most of the time they can excuse their own sins and not feel too badly about what they are really like. People don't like to even acknowledge their faults to their own selves, so they just somehow try to make themselves feel justified about their wicked works, and don't focus on them. That is why God inspired the prophet Jeremiah to write that the human heart is wicked and deceitful above all things (Jer.17: 9). When someone like Jesus or his true witnesses comes along and removes their cloak with the truth, they become offended and hate them. The well cloaked, but wicked person feels that, the one which bears the truth is against, and harming them. In reality, God and his servants speak the truth that they might see themselves as they really are, and repent, and surrender to God and Christ that they might be forgiven and cleaned up, that they may be saved from their sins and its death penalty.

No matter what we think of ourselves, or how we want others to see us; the word of God is the truth, and we must get in agreement with the truth if we want to live forever. Before God we are all naked, and God knows the deepest hidden secrets of our hearts. God will only give eternal life to those who are led by God to, first see and acknowledge our sins and then with Gods Spirit acting on us, causing us to hate our self and truly repent. Repent not only of something that you did, but repent of how you are. True repentance is a spiritual death. We have been slain by the double edged sword of God's Word. God will not beget us as his child until we have reached that spiritual death, where we surrender to completely obey all of Gods laws and instructions. Complete honesty, complete obedience, complete dedication to not sin willfully any longer is required. Anything less and we will only be deceiving ourselves, for no cloak will protect you from Gods eyes. Some, and actually most have sins that they don't want their

husbands or wives to know about, so they may be tempted to lie, but a truly converted person will trust in God to deal with their mate and be willing to take the consequences, whatever they may be in order to please God. True Repentance means that you give up on your old self and trust in God for everything. I know by personal experience that God won't fail you. Even a husband and wife can't truly be at one with each other until they can be before each other physically and spiritually naked and not be ashamed. How can this be you may say, when we have done shameful, sinful things against each other? When you truly repent and are baptized into the body of Christ; God removes all of your sins from you and the old spiritual person is dead. You are now a new creature in the same old flesh, but now you are clean by the washing in Christ's own blood. You are now, clean and no longer guilty; there is no need for shame any longer. Most people will still feel shame for a while, but in time they will come to see that they really are now a different person. If your mate is truly converted they may be hurt when the truth is disclosed about your sins, but they must also recognize that now you are clean inside. You will be a better mate to them and they will be able to love you more than while they were deceived by your cloak. A long time, truly converted person should already know what is in the natural human heart anyway, so they should be able to accept the truth also and rejoice in your conversion.

When the Church of God (Christ's future wife) is finally married to Jesus Christ then we will be given garments of white to wear, not to hide anything, for we will always be spiritually naked before Christ without shame, but the white clothing is a symbol of righteousness (Rev. 19: 7-8). God and Christ also wear these garments of white (Rev. 1: 13) (Dan. 7: 9).

A true witness of God and Christ,

Gary Stowers