

DRESS YOURSELF WITH COMPASSION



Dress yourself with...Compassion

Every so often our news will carry a story about a school struggling with the question of going to mandatory uniforms. It's easy to understand the logic. Some of the most respected people in our society are those who wear uniforms.

Proponents of school uniforms could probably produce studies that show that students are more likely to respect themselves and each other when wearing uniforms, too.

On the other hand, we also hear stories about people bringing disgrace to the uniforms they wear: criminal charges against professional ballplayers, corruption in police departments, and sexual abuse by clergy. Examples such as these indicate that just putting on a uniform does not make a person better.

Listen to the apostle Paul describe a different kind of clothing: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12).

Notice that Paul isn't just describing a change in outward appearances. Nor is

he suggesting that we can somehow will ourselves into better behavior.

We don't earn the right to wear the clothes Paul describes. They come from being loved by God.

It all starts with the compassion Jesus had that moved him to lay down his life for the world.

Believing that Jesus loved us enough to die for us is what makes us one of his people. It also is what produces a change in our attitude.

As God's dearly loved people, we want to reflect the kind of compassion Jesus showed. That is something that will be as plain to see as any uniform.

Real changes in our lives won't happen just because we put on a district-mandated or color-coordinated outfit. That clothing just changes us on the outside. The inner change begins when we are clothed with God's love.

We hope you will visit us soon to learn more about God's great compassion.