

Sunshine Weekly Newsletter

July 29, 2022

Putting On Our Sunday Best

by Peter Caligiuri

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12 NIV

When I was a young boy, putting on my Sunday best meant wearing dress pants, a shirt and tie and black leather shoes - and those shoes couldn't be just slipped on my feet. No way! They had to be polished until they gleamed brightly enough to pass dad's inspection! Of course, this didn't make me holier than folks today who go to church wearing shorts and T-shirts, but it did tell me that Sunday was special. In today's verse, the Apostle Paul writes about a different kind of Sunday best to wear. He tells us to dress with compassion, kindness, patience, and love. His advice inspired me to write a little poem to help us all remember how to put on our Sunday best for Jesus.

Getting dressed for church on Sunday
There's some clothing we must choose
And an outfit we must pick out
Before slipping on our shoes
Now the Bible say that kindness
And forgiveness are in fashion
And gentleness and patience
Should be worn with God's compassion

But designer jeans of selfish pride
And envy just won't fit
And bitterness should not be worn
Nor the jewelry of gossip
Then over all our Sunday best
What brings it all together
Is the overcoat of God's own love
That He gives to wear forever!



Building Bridges

by Rob Keller

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18 ESV

Do you have albums of photos that you treasure, or a few photos of loved ones that you proudly display in frames? If you're like me, you probably also have shoe boxes of photos that you never got around to sorting. These images have an almost magical way of reconnecting us to special people, places, and moments in our lives. In the days before digital cameras, I would mail my film to a lab for processing

and wait impatiently for the prints to arrive. When they were finally delivered, I was excited, but also a little nervous about how they turned out. They might be blurry, too light, or too dark. Did I cut someone's head off or accidentally take a picture of my feet? Yeah, there were always a few that went straight to the trash can, but I couldn't wait to share my new memories with friends and family.

Maybe we love photos, because we hate to live our lives alone, just as with Adam did so long ago.

Snapshots connect us not only to our past, but also to those with whom we have shared our lives with. They are like windows into our souls that reveal the things closest to our hearts. The people we meet every day in the store, the doctor's office or at work are not so different from us. In spite of how people

act, no one their heart, wants to be alone. Jesus told us that His commandment was to love one another as He had loved us. How did He do that? By connecting with our world through a manger, growing up helping Joseph in a carpenter's shop and being such an ordinary



neighbor that none of What is your favorite way to share life with others? Perhaps you like to chat, telling stories of your youth. Eating together is one of the most common ways to spend quality time with friends, both new and old. We can deepen our relationships by working on projects together. Simple things, like playing a game or singing your favorite songs will strengthen the bonds of friendship. I bet you can think of things I haven't mentioned here. So, how are you going to reach out to someone today?

Deny your weakness, and you will never realize God's strength in you.

Joni Eareckson Tada