



## Outfitted for Service

Have you ever stood and looked in your closet and couldn't decide what to wear? You look at all the clothes hanging there and nothing seems right for the day ahead. The perfect outfit just isn't there! Isn't it good to know that our heavenly Father has already selected the perfect outfit for us as His dearly loved children? It is the outfit for service.

Colossians 3:12 reads, *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience ....* These virtues are not ours to accomplish, but are gifts provided by God; they are Christ's virtues. They have been chosen for us, purchased with the blood of Christ, and given to us by the Holy Spirit.

**Compassionate hearts** see the world the way God sees it: *When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd* (Mark 6:34a). **Kindness** and **patience** are part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Jesus modeled and lived **humility**: *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross* (Philippians 2:8). St. Paul defends his ministry to the Corinthians citing the **meekness** of Jesus: *I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ ...* (2 Corinthians 10:1a).

Sounds like the perfect outfit, ready for service. A young boy was shopping in a women's clothing store for a gift for his mother. The sales associate came to help him select something. She asked a number of questions as to his mother's size and height, trying to determine what might fit her best. Getting a little frustrated with the boy, the clerk asked what size is she? The young boy replied, "She is perfect, just the right size!"

Dear Christian, that is how your loving God sees you, as perfect, just the right size; outfitted for service where He has placed you.

**We pray:** Heavenly Father we come to You in the name of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the One who came among us in the form of a servant, giving His life for our salvation. Thank You for Your Word, assuring us that we are chosen, holy and beloved in Jesus. Gift each of us with the virtues that Jesus modeled and lived: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Outfit us for service where You have placed each one of us. Grant this Lord. Amen.

Scripture references are from the ESV.

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