

Introduction:

- IE. The Making of Mummies
- *"Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!""* (John 11:43-44, NLT)
- Eph 4:17-5:10
- For the last five weeks we have been talking about the Holy Spirit in relationship to our personal walk with Him.
 - "You are welcome Holy Spirit." Not just on a corporate level.
 - The focus has been on our relationship with the Holy Spirit, how he helps us overcome, and in developing the mind of the Spirit.
 - The whole goal is to get us to a place of faith that we believe that God the Holy Spirit lives in us. WE ARE ALIVE!!! And being conformed to His image.
- Therefore what God has done on the inside, is doing on the inside, must make a difference on the outside. In other words...what is on the inside will be visible on the outside.
 - My spirit man is made alive in Christ Jesus!
 - Therefore I must renew my mind to think like the New Life I now possess on my inside.
 - A born again spirit plus a renewed mind equals a life that makes visible the Lord Jesus Christ!

I. Grave Clothes Are For The Dead

- A. Grave clothes - these are clothes that are made for the dead. I don't want you to picture a suit and tie.
 1. Grave clothes in Jesus were what we saw earlier. Strips of cloth would be wound around the dead person until they had a mummy like look.
 2. When Lazarus came out of the grave, it was a sight to behold! No stench, no decay, no death!
 3. Jesus said, "Unwrap him. And let Him go!" How prophetic! How profound!
 4. Lazarus' current outfit was no longer in style!!!
 - a) He was wearing clothes that the dead were identified to wear not the living.
 - b) But he was no longer dead, he was alive, so he was required to give up the grave clothes because that was no longer his identity, that was no longer in style. Eph 5:12 (secret) Jn 3:19 love darkness because deeds are evil. (Why am I hiding?)
 5. What are you wearing! Are you identified with the dead or the living?
- B. The pagan religions of Paul's day said little about personal morality. Therefore you could go leave your sacrifice and then go back to sinning as usual. There was no moral requirement. In other words, what we have been learning: death produces death. Death is fitting of death.

- C. Paul's exhortation was: "Don't walk as the gentiles do." "*Live no longer as the gentiles do!*" Eph 4:17 "They wear graves clothes because they are dead! You are not" How did they live?
1. vs 17 they are hopelessly confused.
 2. vs 18 they are full of darkness, they wander from the life God gives, they harden their hearts, they have no sense of shame, they live for lustful pleasure and every impurity.
 3. vs 25 stop telling lies
 4. vs 26 don't let anger control you
 5. vs 28 quit stealing
 6. vs 29 don't use foul or abusive language.
 7. vs 31 Get rid of bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, slander and evil behavior.
 8. 5:3 no sexual immorality, impurity, greed, obscene stories, foolish talk, coarse jokes,
 9. These are grave clothes that are stylish for the dead! You are not dead, you are alive in Christ!
- D. "*that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead* (therefore take off the grave clothes!) *along with Christ* (Jesus did not have any grave clothes on! Jn 20:6) *and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.*" (Ephesians 2:5-6, NLT)

II. Those Who Live Wear Clothes of The Living

- A. You are alive so be dressed for the occasion! Paul starts chapter four with these words, "*Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.*" (Ephesians 4:1, NLT) Paul is saying get dressed for the occasion! You are alive!
1. Be in practice what the calling of God has made you. Live worthy of the calling in Christ.
 - a) Jesus called us to himself.
 - b) We accepted His invitation to live! Therefore, live worthy of His sacrifice! How do we do that? We take off the grave clothes and put on Christ.
 2. "**throw off** your *old sinful nature* and your *former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.*" (Ephesians 4:22, NLT) Paul is telling the Ephesians to strip off the grave clothes.
 3. "**...for you have stripped off** your *old sinful nature* and *all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.*" (Colossians 3:9-10, NLT) Paul is telling the Colossians to put on the new because they have taken off the old.
- B. Put on! Get dressed!
1. Co-operate with the Holy Spirit. IE Remember the earlier sermon on being directed by the Holy Spirit? Skate board.

2. Removal begins with right thinking. Change the way you think! *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* (Romans 12:2, NLT)
 - a) The word renewing is from the Greek word 'anakoinosis,' which when translated into English, means to renovate. IE. If you renovate a house, you have to demolish the parts you no longer want. You tear it out, often with some effort. This is similar to renovating your mind. We must tear out and demolish the old parts of our sin filled minds and memories. Bring in the new.
 - b) Col 3. Think about things above.
 - c) Phil 4:8 Think about what is excellent...
 - d) What are you thinking about? How often do you think about it? Brother Lawrence- Practicing the Presence.
 - e) 2 cor 10:5 take every thought captive. In other words your outlook determines your outcome.
3. Be pro-active in getting dressed. *"Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy."* (Ephesians 4:24, NLT) New nature is righteous. What fellowship have light and darkness. *"Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?"* (2 Corinthians 6:14, NLT)
 - a) Don't partner with what will get you dirty. Ie. Yoke donkey and ox. Donkey is unclean.
 - b) Make right partnerships. Partner with those who will get deeper into the Kingdom of God.
4. Kill it! *"So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world."* (Colossians 3:5, NLT)
 - a) **nekróō**. This means "to put to death" and is used medically for atrophy. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). NICNT Moos (p. 627). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
 - b) What are we putting to death? That member of the parts of the body that continue to sin. Neither Paul nor Jesus in Mt 5 are suggesting mutilation of your body. They are saying that sinful member must 'atrophy.' Be rendered powerless to sin.
 - (1) *"So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires."* (Romans 6:11-12, NLT) Consider means to calculate, reason, think about.
 - (2) *"Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves*

to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.” (Romans 6:19, NLT)

(3) *“And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom.”* (Romans 6:21, NLT)

- C. What you are dressed in matters to God. That is why Jesus, Paul and the Gospel writers stress:
1. Put off the old man, throw off the sin which entangles
 2. Put on the new man, put on righteousness,
 3. Grave clothes are not allowed!!!
 - a) *“Do we then by [this] faith make the Law of no effect, overthrow it or make it a dead letter? Certainly not! On the contrary, we confirm and establish and uphold the Law.”* (Romans 3:31, AMP)
 - b) *“Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace?”* Of course not. (Romans 6:1, NLT)
 - c) *“Well then, since God’s grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not!”* (Romans 6:15, NLT)
 4. Luke 15, when the prodigal came home he had to leave the pig pens behind. To not do this means; 1. you don’t know you have them on or 2. you do not care.
- D. Church, I want you to care! Let’s bring our lives into alignment with the Word.
1. Yes, we have a positional righteousness in Christ Jesus, by faith.
 2. But there must be a practical righteousness as a result of that position.
 3. Take territory! Bring each member into submission to Christ Jesus.
 4. **“Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.”** (Ephesians 5:10, NLT)
 5. **“So be careful how you live...”** (Ephesians 5:15, NLT)
 6. **“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,”** (Ephesians 5:18, NLT)
 - 7.

Conclusion:

- You have come to the place that you have been saved/born again.
- When you get born again you come out of the grave called death.
- When you look back you see your grave clothes.
 - Do you go back to give them one last hug?
 - Do you pull them to your face to feel how soft they were one last time?
 - Certainly not! We don’t sin that grace may abound. We run from it!
- You leave the past behind because you are destined for more!
- What we leave behind in this life will mark the trail for those who follow. Will others be able to find the way based on how you live? Be moved from grave clothes to Grace clothes.