

Clothes that Fit Forgiveness

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BIG IDEA

Forgiveness is a deliberate wardrobe choice—getting dressed like Jesus so the table can stay open.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Psalm 23; John 13; Colossians 3:8-14,17

1. Psalm 23 pictures a table “in the presence of my enemies.” What does it look like to receive God’s provision during conflict instead of waiting for conflict to be gone?
2. John 13 puts “enemies” at the table (betrayal and denial in the room). What does Jesus’ posture at that table expose about how He treats people who fail Him?
3. In Colossians 3:8-9, why do you think Paul starts with what to “rid yourselves” of before he lists what to “put on”?
4. Which “old clothes” named in Colossians 3:8 (anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language) are easiest to justify in you—and what story do you tell yourself when you wear them?
5. Colossians 3:12 calls believers “chosen... holy... dearly loved.” How does that identity change the motive for forgiveness from duty to desire?
6. “Between stimulus and action there is a moment of choice.” What usually hijacks that moment for you? Speed, fear, pride, or something else?
7. In Colossians 3:13, what’s the difference between “bearing with” someone and pretending the wound didn’t matter?
8. Where do you need to separate forgiveness from reconciliation right now, and what boundary would love require in that situation?
9. Which of the three practices is hardest for you to live out: deciding your outfit before the trigger, slowing your response, or choosing one concrete act of love? Why?
10. What would it sound like this week to “do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17) in one specific conversation you’ve been avoiding or rehearsing in your head?

