

THE CHRISTIAN
WorkingWoman



**What the Well-Dressed
Christian Wears
Zoom Bible Study**

7:00 pm (CST)
Sept. 7 - Oct. 19

Register: christianworkingwoman.org/events



Lesson 4 – Tuesday, September 28, 2021
TOLERANCE, FORGIVENESS, AND PEACE

Review

Matthew 6:33: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 11:28-29: Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Last week we focused on three of our inner garments: *humility, gentleness, and patience.*

Which one comes easiest for you? Which one gives you the most trouble?

Were you more conscious of wearing humility this past week? Were you aware of your need to be humble? Did you get rid of some false humility you might have been wearing?

Can you think of a time this past week when you were patient in an area where it's been difficult for you to be patient before?

We'll now cover three more important garments in our special wardrobe.

Tolerance:

Another word for bearing with one another is tolerance. Tolerance is not compromise. We need to show tolerance toward people, not toward sin.

True or False:

_____ A tolerant person gets upset when people don't do exactly what he or she thinks they should do.

_____ A tolerant person gets angry and upset when people make mistakes.

_____ A tolerant person expects everyone to be exactly like him or her.

_____ A tolerant person stops associating with people who aren't doing what they should do.

_____ A tolerant person listens to others and tries to understand why they are the way they are.

_____ A tolerant person gives people time to learn and grow.

Which ones do you need to work on in order to be a more tolerant person?

When it is necessary to stand up against something or someone and not compromise— not tolerate something—how should a Christian do that?

Forgiveness:

The word itself is beautiful. And, oh, what a wonderful garment to have and to wear.

Forgiveness should be a characteristic of the Christian life, one of the things which sets us apart from the rest of the world. The problem is that forgiveness is not easy. In fact, it's one of the toughest things we have to do in this life. Why?

What happens to people who carry unforgiveness around with them for very long?

Let's look at Jesus' teachings on forgiveness:

Matthew 6:14-15: For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Paraphrase what you think Jesus said and meant.

Jesus used a parable to reinforce how important it is for us to forgive other people.

Matthew 18:21-35: Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

What do you think is the analogy we are to draw from this parable to our lives today?

What do you think Jesus meant when he said, *“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”*

How important is it to you to be freely forgiven by God? How much do you need his forgiveness? Can you run the risk of not being forgiven regularly by the Lord?

Do you know you're supposed to forgive someone, but you haven't yet? They may not deserve your forgiveness, but remember, you and I don't deserve God's forgiveness either and yet he forgives us.

Also remember that forgiving someone does not mean condoning what they did. Forgiveness, in many cases, is simply giving up your right to get your pound of flesh – to have vengeance.

The benefits of forgiving are many. Bitterness will go away; self-pity will leave; depression will diminish. You will gain more benefits out of forgiving others than they do out of being forgiven.

Now, can you ask God to help you wear forgiveness? If so, it might be helpful to make a covenant with him:

Lord, I covenant with you to forgive:

I may not feel like forgiving, Lord, but I do it by faith. I may have to come back again soon and forgive them all over again. But, by your grace and because you have forgiven me and because I want you to continue to forgive me, I do choose to forgive.

Signed _____

Peace:

The Bible talks about two types of peace.

Romans 5:1: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have *peace with God* through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 4:7: And *the peace of God*, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A truly peaceful person needs to wear both kinds, but one must precede the other. Which type of peace is it necessary to have in order to have the other?

We must have peace _____ God before we can have the peace _____ God.

Read the following verses about peace, and then answer the questions that follow.

John 14:27: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 16:33: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Romans 8:6: The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Ephesians 2:14-17: For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Does Jesus intend for his followers to be peaceful people?

Yes

No

When you wear peace, does that mean you never have any troubles?

Yes

No

According to **Romans 8:6**, what is the natural outcome of a mind controlled or governed by:

The Spirit of God? _____

The “flesh”? _____

Who is our peace? _____

Isaiah 26:3 says, “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast (or “stayed on Thee”), because he trusts in you.”

Who keeps us in peace?

And what is required of us to be kept in peace?

Do you have peace with God?

Yes

No

I'm not sure

If yes, how do you know for sure?

Having peace with God doesn't come from being a good person or going to church every Sunday. It comes from accepting God's salvation, which is found in Jesus Christ. Every person must do this for herself. You must make that decision personally.

If you do have peace *with* God, are you wearing the peace *of* God?

Most of the time

Not very often

You can have peace *with* God and still not have the peace *of* God. You don't have to live without the peace of God. You can put it on today. You can wear peace if you choose.

It comes through fixing your mind on Jesus. It comes on constantly focusing your thoughts on the one who can give you true peace – Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Remember, you don't have to feel tolerant in order to be tolerant. Our feelings are not trustworthy, so put on tolerance, even if you don't feel like it.

Remember, you may have to put forgiveness on many times - especially if the hurt and pain is deep and long. Put it on, and when it falls off, put it on again *by faith!* Let God give you forgiveness in exchange for that hurt and bitterness and resentment you've been carrying around.

Remember, make sure that you're wearing both types of peace! You can wear peace in the midst of hectic, confusing, troubling circumstances.

Suggested Assignment

Continue to refresh your memory and recite [Matthew 6:33](#) and [Matthew 11:28](#) every day.

Another good memory verse is [Romans 5:1](#):

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Well-Dressed Christian Wears

Inner Garments

Compassion

Gentleness

Tolerance

Peace

Kindness

Patience

Forgiveness

Thankfulness

Humility



Love