

April 18, 2021

Clothed With the New Person

Ephesians 4:21-32

Steven Husong wore a military uniform for 25 years while serving in the Navy and in the National Guard. While he was serving in Afghanistan, he broke his back and suffered a head injury. After being discharged from the military, he hung up his uniform and put on civilian clothes. Suffering from PTSD and addiction to the painkillers prescribed to him after his accident, he began down the road to addiction and crime. His marriage of ten years fell apart, and he went to jail, where he wore prison clothes.

For much of his life, what Husong wore defined who he was: a soldier, a husband, a felon. In the years since, he has turned his life around. He's out of prison and has received treatment for his addiction. He started a dog-training business and volunteers his time to help other veterans who deal with PTSD. But there was one piece missing. Husong still felt the label of "felon" hanging over his head, which spurred him to apply for clemency from the governor of California. " 'When you're a felon, getting housing is hard, getting jobs is hard, the stigma is insane,' [Steven] said. . . . 'Now a whole world has opened to me; I'm going to make everybody proud, like I've tried for the last eight years.' " ¹ He learned earlier this year that Governor Gavin Newsom will grant his request, pardoning him of his crimes.

What we wear often defines us, whether it's an actual uniform or simply an attitude. We are mothers and fathers, workers and players, felons and free. How does your attitude reflect you as a Christian? Scripture tells us, "Since you really listened to him and you were taught how the truth is in Jesus, change the former way of life that was part of the person you once were" (Ephesians 4:21-22). We all have a chance for clemency through Jesus Christ. He will pardon our sins and give us new life. He will clothe us in forgiveness. Let your outward attitude reflect your freedom in Christ.

1. What does your clothing say about what kind of person you are?
2. How has Jesus changed "the former way of life that was part of the person you once were"?
3. How can you show yourself as a Christian in your outward appearance or attitude?

Rachel Mullen lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and daughter. She blogs at www.travelwithgrands.blogspot.com and is mom to the world's worst behaved dachshund.

¹From napavalleyregister.com/news/local/gov-newsom-pardons-napa-county-man-who-turned-his-life-around/article_e8f5b77a-d0d4-5267-bbb9-9e502696a4e9.html.