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DO YOUR CLOTHES IMPRESS DEODLE INSTEAD OF YOUR CHARACTER?

Dear Chosen One: I bring you greetings from my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Let's clothe ourselves with righteousness and become imitators of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, "If you are guided by the Spirit; you won't obey your selfish desires. The spirit and your desires are enemies of each other...People's desires make them give in to immoral ways, filthy thoughts, and shameful deeds... I told you before and I am telling you again: No one who does these things will share in the blessings of God's kingdom. God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways. And because we belong to Christ Jesus, we have killed our selfish feelings and desires. God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit. But don't be conceited or make others jealous by claiming to be better than they are" (Galatians 5:16-26. CEV)

Every day, millions of dollars are spent on brand name clothing. These outer garments can **only** cover one's nakedness but these clothing cannot hide a person's "**dirty character.**" For centuries, people have used clothing to cover their naked bodies and hoped to hide their shame. This cover-up started in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned. After they found out that they were naked, they used fig leaves to hide their nakedness, but God was still able to see their sinful nature. (Genesis 3:1-11.)

Many people find themselves in debt as a result of their buying clothes to impress others. Their outer garment may look good, may boost their self-esteem, and even enhance their appearances but their sinful nature is still exposed in God's sight. The Bible warns us not to judge a person by his or her outward appearance. Instead, it says we should judge one by his or her character and the contents of their heart. Although we cannot see one's heart, we can validate a person by their action and behavior.

I have seen both men and women wearing brand name clothing to impress others but when their true character was revealed, the same people they had initially impressed turned around and rejected them. Sorry! But there is no kind of brand name clothes that can cover up your tainted character. As a matter of fact, the only thing that can cleanse your "dirty character and tainted past" is the Blood of Jesus after you have repented.

Repentance is FREE! So why are you wasting your money on clothing that cannot cleanse your character or keep your soul from a burning hell?

News Flash! Your clothes, expensive cars, fancy houses, money, positions, titles, degrees and other worldly possessions cannot be substituted for a godly character. The Bible says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

SIN CANNOT BE COVERED WITH CLOTHING, ONLY WITH JESUS' BLOOD.

People of God, it is time to turn inwardly, repent, change your ungodly behaviors, and clothe yourself in the righteousness of Christ. It doesn't matter what kind of clothing you have on. If you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior and you don't have a personal relationship with Him, both you and your outer garments will be cast into outer darkness. When people look at you, they should see that your identity is in Christ and not in the logo on your clothes.

Don't get me wrong, I am not against anyone wearing or having name brand clothing. However, I am against those people who allow their clothing to deprive and hinder them from drawing close to God. They fail to repent and use their clothing to cover their ungodly character. Personally, I love nice clothing, but I don't use my clothing to cover up any ungodliness. If I fall short of God's glory, I immediately confess and repent and accept God's forgiveness. And No! I don't continue dressing to impress others.

On the other hand, there are some people who wear name brand clothing and have a good character, but they have allowed their clothes to interfere with their ability to perform certain tasks for God. Oftentimes, these individuals don't want to get their clothes dirty or ruin their self-image, so they turn a blind eye and fail to help the poor and needy. Sometimes, these same people refuse to get down on their knees and pray with others or refuse to embrace a person who isn't dressed like them. They don't want to soil or ruin their name brand clothing.

Trust me, many alligators, snake skins and red bottom shoes have prevented some godly men and women from going into the slums and poverty-stricken neighborhoods to preach the Gospel. The Bible says, "Rend your heart and not your garments..." (Joel 2:13) This speaks to the individuals who are dressing to impress others but their "characters are dirty". They are poor representatives of Christ. They shine outwardly but are dull inwardly.

Many Christians have forgotten who they were before God saved them. It was only by the Grace of God that their lives were transformed. However, without the Blood of Jesus, we would all perish in our sins.

Seek the Holy Spirit in prayer and ask Him to reveal if there is anything in your heart that is preventing or hindering you from doing the will of God and if so - then repent. If you consider yourself to be an ambassador or servant for Jesus Christ, you will have to get your hands, clothes, and feet dirty for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You must be willing to gird your waist like Christ and wash the feet of your brothers and sisters or anyone who you think is beneath you. (Read John 13:4-7.)

Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross wasn't done so you and I can walk around to impress others in our name brand clothing, while denying His power and not demonstrating His Love for others. The Bible says, "Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did." (1 John 2:6.)

Remember, even if you are able to impress other people with your clothing, God can still see your heart. I believe, when you allow the light of Christ to shine through you it won't matter what kind of clothes you have on. Others will not only see your impressive clothes. Instead, they will see your Christ like character. Therefore, let us be imitators of Jesus Christ and represent Him and not the world. I pray that your mind will be renewed, and your light will shine so others will see and glorify the True and Living God inside of you.

It is time to drop the "e" in your ego and "Go into the world and preach the good news (Gospel) to all creation" (Mark 16:15.)

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" (John 15:16.)

God is LOVE therefore, let us share that Love with others.