



## DRESSED: It's Not Quite Garanimals (Ephesians 4:17- 5:21)

#7 in the series, The Game of LIFE: Ephesians Edition

October 25, 2009

**Core Truth:** We must work with God in shaping our character to become holy.

### Three Primary Principles to Christian Success:

1. A non-Christian is worldly in his or her character and mission (4:17-19).
2. A Christian is Christlike in his or her character and mission (4:20-24, 5:8-11).
3. A Christian must dress daily for success, taking off and putting on (4:17-5:21).

<u>Non-Christian</u>		<u>Christian</u>
<u>hardened</u> , <u>ignorant</u>		<u>open</u> , <u>enlightened</u> ,
<u>dead</u> , <u>wild</u>	4:18-24	<u>alive</u> , <u>holy</u>
<u>old self</u>	4:22-24	<u>new self</u>
<u>dishonest</u>	4:25	<u>honest</u>
<u>sin in anger</u>	4:26-27	<u>righteous in anger</u>
<u>thief</u>	4:28	<u>worker &amp; giver</u>
<u>destructive talk</u>	4:29-30	<u>edifying talk</u>
<u>hateful &amp; hurtful</u>	4:31-5:2	<u>kind &amp; loving</u>
<u>sexually immoral</u>		<u>sexually pure</u>
<u>&amp; derogatory</u>	5:3-4	<u>&amp; thankful</u>
<u>waiting for wrath</u>	5:5-7	<u>wrath - free</u>
<u>promote darkness</u>	5:8-14	<u>expose darkness</u>
<u>unwise</u>	5:15-17	<u>wise</u>
<u>controlled by worldliness</u>	5:18-21	<u>controlled by Holy Spirit</u>

### Two Helpful Truths:

1. You cannot do this on your own, so you must abide in Christ.
2. God will not do this on his own, so you must intentionally strive.



### Getting to Know Each Other

1. Did your parents let you dress in the style that you wanted? Explain.

### Getting Started

2. What story in the news or from history makes you think, *How can people act that way?* What answers do you hear others give to such a question?

### Digging Deeper

3. Read Romans 1:18-32 and map out the progression of people's choices and the consequences. Then compare your "map" with Ephesians 4:18-19. *Here is a kick start:* a) God reveals himself; b) people recognize God and know something about him; c) people reject God (harden); d) their thinking becomes futile (ignorant)...
4. Does this progression of non-Christians match your experience? How does it help you with sharing the gospel? Do they need facts or a softened heart first, both, or neither?
5. Salt prevents decay. Light reveals the way and exposes what's in the dark. Read Matthew 5:13-16 and Ephesians 5:8-14. How could this play out in your life? Is it difficult for you to "shine"?
6. We created a list of characteristics and realities of a Christian. Paul commanded us to do and be those things (Ephesians 4:18-5:21). Do they make sense to you? With which are you most successful? With which do you need the most growth?
7. When you read the commands to develop holy character, what are your feelings? Here are some options: overwhelmed, inspired, defeated, longing, confused... How does Jesus' claim that his ways are "easy" and not "burdensome" apply (Matthew 11:28-30)?
8. Use these verses (John 15:4-5; Galatians 5:18-22; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 4:22-24, and the commands of Ephesians 4:25-5:21) to determine how the Bible seems to describe a *method* for personal growth. Use the "Two Helpful Truths" as a resource.
9. How could your C'Nex Group better support dressing for success?

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