

You should care about the clothes you wear. What you wear. What to wear each day? I spend almost no time each deciding what to wear, which black shirt, black pants. Clothing is a big deal in our society, even with you; not just when it comes to the special events of life, but even the everyday journeys you think about the clothes you will wear. Clothing effects your attitude, your comfort, who doesn't have a favorite outfit for a good day.

Holy Scripture has a great deal to say about clothing, about garments, but why? The easy answer -so you're not naked; but there's more to it than that. In Scripture, garments, clothing in reality covering our shame and sin.

Nakedness, shame are equated with sin in Scripture. We try to cover up. It doesn't work—it never does. Adam and Eve know that. Our first parents in the Garden of Eden, it's written **they were naked and not ashamed**. Why is this detail important?

After the Fall, they realize their nakedness; they know their sin; they're ashamed; so they sewed together fig leaves to cover themselves, lest God see their shame, see their sin. It didn't work. It was the wrong kind of garment. Scripture notes, God clothe them with animal skins, that means there is death, the first death, blood spilled to cover our parents. Fig leaves weren't good enough because they pointed to man's own efforts for his sin -only God can cover. This garment motif continues to be woven throughout the Old Testament, with Jesus and the New Testament to Revelation.

Like when Isaiah writes there is One who is coming who will clothe us **with the garments of salvation and cover you with the robe of righteousness**. Isaiah also tells us that **all our righteous deeds are like filthy rages**. The prophets, like Joel write **to rend our hearts and not our garments**, that the rending of our garments accomplishes nothing; rather, it is a broken and contrite heart coming before God in repentance that pleases Him and He provides the clothing to cover you, and that means a death and blood spilled.

We wear nice clothes to hide our nakedness. We also believe we can deceive God, hide our shame, our sin. Our man-made garments but filthy rags. It still does not work with God.

Indeed, if the desires of your heart were laid bare for all to see, you'd hang your head and run out of here in shame. The nice clothe can fool others, even fool ourselves, but the Lord sees it all.

Return to the Lord with repentant hearts. Put on sackcloth and ashes—repent. We know we can not cover ourselves with nice clothes to cover the ugliness inside, we can't do enough works to cover us before God.

Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Ashes in the sign of the cross show us the true nature of our God.

The cross! An instrument of torture and death and the means by which God cleansed our hearts, exchanged our garments; where Jesus is stripped of His robe and all of our sin is revealed; He who knew no sin became sin for us; He hangs naked and in shame in our stead.

Listen to St. John, Revelation, **behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes, peoples, languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and crying out with a loud voice, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Clothed in white robes; no fig leaves or man-made garments, they're not adorned in filthy rags, but clothed in white robes, cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb. God sees your shame, sin. He covers it. It always works. Clothing that encompasses your attitude, comfort, entire life; Christ Himself clothes you in His robe of righteousness, covers you in baptismal garment of salvation. That is the clothing you should be ever mindful, care about what you wear; to clothe you He must go to the cross. Always realize what you wear each day, how you are clothed.