

CLOTHED IN CHRIST: Reflecting God's Love and Light

Our work in schools is more than a role; it is a calling. Every calling is an opportunity to “put on the new nature” we’ve been given in Christ. From the classroom to the playground, from the gym to the front office, we are invited to clothe ourselves in patience, kindness, gentleness, and love. When we walk into our schools wearing Christ, others experience His presence through us. People notice! This is a high calling—often difficult, always possible, and deeply rewarding. Let’s see how Paul’s words to the Ephesians can help us.

Read [Ephesians 4:22-24](#).

Paul begins by telling us to put off our old self. The AMP translation amplifies *old self* with *former nature*. Each of us has old habits and attitudes (e.g., frustration, gossip, negativity, fear) that can weigh us down. The first step toward renewal is recognizing those and choosing to let them go. ***What do you need to put off today?***

Verse 23 acts as a bridge between our old self and new self. ***What does Paul say is the key?***

The word “renewed” (AMP) implies a continual process of creating a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude. Every educator knows that lasting change in behavior begins with a change in thinking. When we align our thoughts with God’s Word, the Holy Spirit goes to work, shaping us to be more like Jesus. Once our thoughts are renewed, we can more fully live out our new nature.

Read [Ephesians 5:1-2](#).

Our greatest teaching tool is not the curriculum or workplace tasks but our character. ***What does it mean to imitate God? What should be our motivation? What might this look like in your workplace? Be specific.***

Read [Ephesians 5:8-9](#).

As believers our lives should be characterized by the light of Christ. What does that mean? The AMPC version describes it this way: *For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light or the Spirit [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life* (v. 9). In other words, the fruit of the Spirit will be put on display! ***Where can you be a light-bearer today? What fruit of the Spirit can you intentionally put on display so the light of Christ shines through you?***

Lord, renew my heart and mind today. Help me to throw off the old self and put on the new nature that You have given me. Let me imitate You in the way I teach, love, and lead. May my classroom be filled with Your light so that all who enter may glimpse Your goodness and truth. Amen.

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