

# From Our Conference Minister

---

## *Dress Yourself in Christ* (Romans 13:8-14 Message)



As you head to church this Sunday, you will likely give some thought to what you will wear. Perhaps you will select your attire from the night before. When morning arrives, you change out of the clothes you wore to bed and put on new clothes suitable for church.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome, used a similar trope to encourage them to pay attention to what they wear. It may be easier to understand using the Message translation of Romans 13:13-14:

*“...We can’t afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don’t loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!”*

Paul said, “Dress yourselves in Christ,” but what did he mean? Certainly, back then *Christ* was not a name brand clothing line like Versace or Chanel. Perhaps a quote from a famous fashion designer, Coco Chanel might offer some insight into what Paul meant. According to Chanel, “*Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street. **Fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening.***”

References by Paul to “*dress yourselves in Christ*” has more to do with the way we live and how we respond to what is happening around us and in our churches. I pray whenever conflict and tensions arise in our churches, we recognize the metaphorical clothes we wear that are not a good fit with who we are as Christians. When we indulge in behaviors like gossiping it should feel uncomfortable like undersized or oversized clothing. May God grant us the grace to change out of those clothes to, instead, dress ourselves in Christ.

As followers of Jesus, may we choose to “*dress yourselves in Christ*” and share his love so others in this community, and beyond, might see Jesus Christ reflected in us.

*In Christ,  
Monica*

Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith  
Conference Minister and President