



# Sin fits like a Cheap Suit

Greg V Hurd

*“For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down—when we die and leave these bodies—we will have a home in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God Himself and not by human hands. We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long for the day when we will put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. For we will not be spirits without bodies, but we will put on new heavenly bodies. Our dying bodies make us groan and sigh, but it’s not that we want to die and have no bodies at all. We want to slip into our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up into everlasting life. God Himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us His Holy Spirit.*

*So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. That is why we live by believing and not seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.”*  
2 Corinthians 5:1-8 NLT

In this passage of scripture the Apostle Paul gives insight into the life that is to come. A day in which we will put off this mortality for immortality and this corruption for incorruption slipping into our heavenly celestial body that was Adams in the beginning.

*“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”* 1 Corinthians 15:51-54  
NKJ

Another passage in the letter to the Romans also shows our intrinsic desire to be clothed with the garments only God can provide.

*“For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

*Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”*  
Romans 8:22,23 KJV

These scriptures give us hope and a favorable future, but what about the present? I mean, it is great to know that this is my future, but how am I supposed to deal with this corruptible suit that I have on right now? Fortunately, the Bible has a lot to say in regards to that dilemma. I wanted us to look at these scripture so we could see God’s original intent and the future of His creation. We will use it as a gauge to see how far man has digressed from God’s original intentions.

As we look at the creation of the universe, we see that God completed His work in 6 days and rested on the seventh. He declared that all He had done was very good, even the creation of man. In the last verse of chapter two in Genesis, we see that Adam and his wife Eve were naked and not ashamed.

*“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.”*  
Genesis 2:25 KJV

Now this nakedness was not just denoting nudity, but a quality of life that you and I have probably never experienced. The Bible says that Adam and Eve were clothed with the glory of God, bringing about a sense of wholeness and completeness. Free from guilt, shame and condemnation. They were at one with themselves and their Creator and were able to walk free of censure and embarrassment.

It was their relationship with God that caused them to walk with such abandonment. But when sin entered their lives, bloody animal skins that symbolized the decay of death, the blood of an innocent and the smell of sin replaced the glorious covering of God.

*“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”*  
Genesis 3:21 KJV

These clothes were a drastic departure from what they had originally experienced. Even the ornate aprons of leaves made by their hands were in dark contrast to the bloody pelts that now covered their bodies. The aprons of leaves were their vain attempt to make themselves pleasing before God, a design of ingenuity and cunning, however God’s required clothing was a design of necessity and education. For the skins were to set a precedent of ‘the innocent for the guilty’ that would culminate thousands of years later at Calvary when the ultimate exchange would take place.

The coats of skins were to remind them of their transgression and the cost of their sin. For physical death was first introduced by the killing of two innocent animals. Their life provided a temporary covering for Adam and his wife. The pelts still wet with blood, prefiguring the blood that would be shed in the days of the Law and the final shedding by the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

*“But Christ came as a High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.  
Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.  
For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a red heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*  
Hebrews 9:11-14 KJV

However, that would not be for many years yet, and both Adam and Eve were banished from Eden wearing a cheap imitation of what they were clothed with before. Instead of walking in the splendor of God, now they have been expelled wearing a cheap suit.

*“So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”*  
Genesis 3:24 KJV

Have you ever had to wear a cheap suit? You know what I am talking about, like that suit you wore at your Aunt's wedding when you were ten? The one that didn't fit so right, the pants rode so high you thought that you would be split in half? You didn't want to wear it, but you had to because it was a special occasion and you had to dress up in accordance with the upcoming nuptials of an Aunt you barely knew.

When I was young we did not go to the mall for such distinguished attire, we went to second hand shops. One in particular, that has forever scarred my psyche, was Wall's. This store specialized in everything you would never want, but it was cheap. My Mom was the Queen of the last minute, so the day before, she would take my sister and I shopping for the sophisticated apparel necessary for such an occasion. You don't just wear anything to a wedding you know, or at least that is what my Mom always used to say. I was perfectly content to show up in my Tuff-Skin jeans and a Star Wars t-shirt, but that would be disrespectful to the aura of the commitment my Aunt was making. Instead, we showed our utmost reverence by wearing polyester fire damaged garments long rejected by the Czars of Fashion. These clothes could not even be declared retro, because they never really happened, "The Clothes that Time Forgot." Wall's was a second-hand place for overstocked, out of date and 'what we're they thinking when they made that' kind of items. Every trip was an education, where else could you be introduced to the flip side of the color wheel, or as it is sometimes referred to as "The Lost Colors." For instance, shades of eggplant, avocado, harvest gold, tangerine, pumpkin and algae green, the so called dark-side of the color spectrum.

The Muses of Style were grossly silent as we made our way to the wedding the next day dressed in our synthetic best, desperately praying to God for some quasi Cinderella experience. But our fairy godparents would post bail too late and we were forced to walk through the labyrinth of superficial smiles, pats on the back and feigned words of affirmation.

"Doesn't he look handsome," you would hear them say in their glazed mechanical rhythm. Are these people blind; was the question racing through my brain? In my mind's eye I could see them snickering behind my back as I limped along with a huge polyester wedgie.

**Wedgie:** 2: the condition of having one's clothing [wedged](#) between the buttocks especially from having one's pants or underpants yanked up from behind as a prank -- often used with *get* or *give*  
-*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*.

I still felt embarrassed about it even after several years had passed. The shame, the sorrow, the sham that was that hot summer day when I learned that polyester did not breathe. The disappointment of my dilemma stemmed from the fact that I could have worn better, it was available, and others were parading in it right before my very eyes. My predicament was one that we all feel at one time or another, it is the knowing that something better is available, but we are not in possession of it. Adam and Eve walked away knowing that there was better, but their cheap suits reminded them of what they had lost. Since the time of the fall, humanity has been clothed in a cheap suit. Sin has shrouded the human race with a fabric of imperfection that misses the mark of God's best.

Because of the transgression of humanities parents, who believed the lie that they could live irrespective of God and become gods, this suit of sin has been indelibly stamped upon the human race. Forcing mankind to live with cheap imitations of the once priceless treasures experienced in the beginning.

A cheap suit makes you feel self-conscious, at all times thinking about things that pertain to you and how you feel. Everything is filtered through this perception to where your thoughts, motives and intents are planted firmly in the soil of self-preservation.

**“Don’t worry about what other people think of you, because they’re too busy worrying about what you think of them.”**

Man was created to have dominion (Genesis 1:26) but the cheap suit causes man to live like a survivalist, a defensive mentality that propagates selfishness and all its baggage.

*“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft (DRUGS), hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such the like: of which I tell you before, as I have told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* Galatians 5:19-21 KJV

This self-consciousness leads to behavior contrary to the design of God. It opens the door to pride, ego, strife, competition, defensiveness, suspicious behavior and offensiveness. Our self-worth and self-confidence is personified in our perception of ourselves by the reflection of the mirror of society and circumstance. Instead of being in the place of dominance, because of the working of the cheap suit, we are in the place of being dominated.

Adam was created to live from the inside- out. The intrinsic Divine nature within gave him the ability to move in God-given authority, but now this has been polarized. Sin caused Adam to live from the outside- in, subjugating mankind to be limited by their circumstance and environment.

I was not a happy camper in that polyester ensemble; my countenance was not displaying a great deal of confidence and contentment. I just may have been a little snippy, maybe. It affected my attitude toward myself, which in turn filtered down in my outlook towards others. The uncomfortable-ness of my condition caused me to be defensive, which soon gave way to an offense or two or three or..Well...it gave credence to the old sports adage, “Sometimes the best offense is a good defense.”

*“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lust and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.”* Titus 3:3 KJV

All, at one time in their life, have been confronted with the cheap suit, leading to gross alterations in lifestyle and behavior. One extreme is to become a dignified barbarian, perhaps even perfumed by the aerosol of religion. Outwardly, we are the personification of professionalism, morality and class, but inwardly, the cheap suit's activity causes a decorous ruthlessness in business and an appetite for control.

*“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which, indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but are within full of dead men's bones and all of uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”*  
Matthew 23:27,28 KJV

The other extreme is the acceptance of the suit and the immersion into the lifestyle it requires. After all, we cannot change the hand that was dealt to us, “Let's eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

*“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind. Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”*  
Ephesians 4:17-19 KJV

There are varying stages in between these polar opposites, each a modification with multiple variables including upbringing, personality, birth order, education, socio-economic status and so forth. But one thing remains, the cheap suit.

*“I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree the law is good. But I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things.”* Romans 7:15-17 NLT

Over time humanity became accustomed to the cheap suit.

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be manifest, that they are wrought in God.”*  
John 3:16-21 KJV

*“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in your trespasses and sins; wherein in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lust of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”*  
Ephesians 2:1-3 KJV

*“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*  
2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV

The devil’s deception brought in an, “I’m okay, you’re okay” attitude. This perception skews what is right and what is wrong, a sort of situational ethics employed to get what we want when we want it. New religions were birthed to opiate and inoculate us from the shame of the cheap suit. Social agendas, philosophies and ideologies were formed to try to rid us of the consciousness of the cheap suit. Some would even dare to say that the cheap suit was a fabrication caused by religious ideologies and that we should cast off the moral restraints it inflicted. The sexual revolution, the growing drug culture and the isolation of society are all by-products of the cheap suit.

*“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such turn away!”*  
2 Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV

Our inebriation with the minutia of life had almost silenced the indignity of the cheap suit. It seemed as if the intoxicants of the day had all but buried the realization of our plight. But then the law came.

*“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.”*  
Romans 7:7,8 KJV

The law shed light on our condition. It made us realize that we were not okay, that something was wrong. When we are confronted with the law of God we begin to smell the stench of our cheap suit. We see our self with crystal clear lucidity. The first thing that reacts is our emotions. Reflexively we begin to toggle from anger to sadness to shame to anger to regret to anger.

We have just been issued a life-altering ultimatum.

*“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed shall live:”*  
Deuteronomy 30:19 KJV

We can no longer plead innocence nor ignorance, Mr. Blackwell has critiqued our ensemble and we have been found wanting.  
There is no trick mirror, no flashy salesman that can candy coat the truth.  
We are not who we think we are.

*“Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.”*  
Romans 7:13 KJV

The law was never intended to bring about the righteousness that God requires. It was a magnifying glass, a measure showing us the depravity of our condition. Without the law, our heart condition would have never been diagnosed and we would have walked through this life ignorant of the eternal consequences associated with our condition. As Jesus declared in the gospel, “Only the sick have need of a physician.”  
With our condition critical, we are finally confronted with our deficiencies, holding our deflated pride we stand with newly open eyes for we have seen and heard truth.

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*  
Romans 3:23 KJV

*“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.  
O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”*  
Romans 7:23,24 KJV

If we were to end it here we would be of all men most miserable, but the word of God declares the solution to our dilemma.

*“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord..”*  
Romans 7:25a KJV

Jesus Christ has saved us from the body of this death. Through His atoning work we can cast off the cheap suit and put on a new suit custom tailored in righteousness and true holiness.  
How did he do this? Jesus came to earth in a cheap suit.

*“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham.*

*Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

*For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”*  
Hebrews 2:14-18 KJV

Jesus left the splendor of heaven and took on the fashion of a man. Clothed in a cheap suit, He became the mediator between God and mankind, becoming identified with humanity, so that humanity could become identified with Him.

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*  
Philippians 2:5-8 KJV

Because of His sacrifice we no longer have to be identified with the cheap suit, a new garment woven by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus has been fashioned for us. A pure white spotless garment that is acceptable and pleasing to God.

*“Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead. And you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”*  
Colossians 2:12-15 KJV

He took on poverty, that I might have His riches, He took my sickness, that I might have His health. He took my place, my iniquity He laid upon Himself and at the cross He declared out of His mouth, “It is finished.” This statement released us from the cloak of sin that held us in bondage, causing us to walk in a present and future glory only known to humanities parents.

*“For by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”*  
Romans 5:19 KJV

Now you might be saying to yourself, “ thank God I’ll never have to worry about that cheap suit again.” But before you get comfortable with that idea, let me show you how we can still allow it to cause an Inner Fashion Emergency.

You see the suit had allies, one is the soul and the other is the flesh. They were used to the suit, it was comfortable to them and now they feel naked and lonely. The carnal mind and degenerate flesh would like to once again strut down the catwalk of lasciviousness touting the sin suit.

We can once again yield ourselves to the proclivities of the cheap suit if we begin to surrender to the influence of the flesh and the carnal mind. Broken habits can be picked back up, attitudes can reemerge and conformity to the world can be reenergized if we choose to forfeit our rights and privileges in Christ.

*“And I brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envy, strife and division, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”*

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 KJV

The Apostle Paul is not writing this to a group of unbelieving reprobates, he is writing this to spirit-filled believers! Paul is saying, in what I like to call the King Gregory paraphrase, “Hey, why are you putting on that old cheap suit? You are acting like there is nothing else to put on, you mere unchanged men!”

Even though this church had been established by the Apostle Paul and up to the time of the writing of this epistle had been in existence for four years, they picked up the cheap suit and began parading around in it.

The key to keeping our arms from sinking down in that sinister apparel is found in the epistle to the church at Ephesus.

*“That you put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and put on the new man which God has created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

Ephesians 4:22-24 KJV

Notice we put off something and then we put on something. This tells me that I am responsible for dressing myself. I must put off the tendencies and desires of the flesh and mind and put on the new garments that God has created in righteousness and true holiness. We must also take note that the Apostle gives us a check list of those items associated with the cheap suit, even though it's power has been broken. He furthermore commands us to do something about them not in silent passivity, but with violent aggressiveness.

*“Wherefore put away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.*

*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

*Neither give place to the devil.*

*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”*

Ephesians 4:25-31 KJV

How do we cast these old things aside and clothe ourselves with the new? The answer is found sandwiched between verses twenty-two and twenty-four of the fourth chapter of Ephesians.

*“And be renewed in the spirit of you mind.”*

Ephesians 4:23 KJV

An expanded translation says, “Put on a fresh attitude.”

The soul of man, in which the mind is a compartment, has always been the swing vote to the agendas of the flesh and spirit.

*“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”*

Galatians 5:17 KJV

The flesh is going to stand upon the platform of the past, boasting of the history and the exploits thereof. Its campaign slogan would be something like, “At least in the past I felt better!” However, the politics of the flesh are only self-serving and have dire future consequence. But many a soul has yielded to the fleeting temporal agenda of the flesh, leaving the campaign of the spirit to only give concession speeches and sweep up the mess.

A mind that allies itself to the flesh is at odds with God. It does not think in line with the plans and purposes of God and cannot discern them.

*“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”*

Romans 8:7 KJV

The key to never having to wear that cheap suit again is to develop a spirit controlled mind.

*“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*

Romans 8:6 KJV

Our mind, which is the seat of learning, or intellect, must be renewed. In other words it must be influenced towards the spirit's agenda. It is well versed in the flesh's agenda and has been wined and dined, so to speak, in order to rationalize extreme carnal behavior, but the mind was originally created to be submissive to the spirit of man.

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

Romans 12:1,2 KJV

It is truth that will tear down the walls of carnal propaganda propagated by the cheap suit. The renewal process is one of putting off and putting on, because old habits cannot be misplaced, they must be replaced.

*“..If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

John 8:32 KJV

James, the pastor of the church at Jerusalem writes in his epistle,

*“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”* James 1:21 KJV

I find it interesting that James is not writing to unbelievers, but to believers. If we were to use the vernacular of the day we would probably say that by using the word ‘soul’ James was referring to our eternal condition. It seems that we have made the ‘saving of the soul’ and the born-again experience synonymous. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

To bring the soul into sync with the spirit is how man was originally designed to operate. It is the only way that we can make our flesh subservient to the spirit and put it in its rightful place.

Through His redemptive work, Christ has given me a choice in what I want to wear. I can choose to pick up the old cheap suit or I can walk in newness of life by putting on the new suit. The responsibility is ours and ours alone. We have been given the right to fail or the right to succeed. As God spoke so long ago, “Today I set before you life and death.” Everyday that we arise from our beds we have a decision to make as to what we are going to put on. Let it be said of us that we will put on the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. And when the devil picks up that cheap suit and asks us why we don’t wear it we can boldly say, “It doesn’t fit me anymore!”