

Fathers Day 2017 Suit Up

Preamble

- Welcome to all our Dads in the house today
- We love and appreciate you
- We recognise the great challenge on men in these days
- We want to help you be all that you were created to be

Introduction

- When Joel was four years old we had ordered him a spider man suit
- We were a little disappointed that it hadn't arrived in time
- But then halfway through his party it arrived.
- Joel was so excited with this present
- I still remember him patiently getting into the costume
- The whole suit was on and then finally the mask went over his head.
- Joel promptly ran outside and threw himself against the fence, repeatedly jumping and showing himself against the fence!!
- He really thought that if he wore the spider man suit he would have spider man powers

Uniforms (suits) people wear help others relate with them

- police, firefighters, soldiers, Doctors even a School uniform
 - What they are wearing Gives them an identity so everyone who they are
- What you wear tells people who you are and how to relate with you
- They feel safe with you
- They know whether they can depend upon you
- In an crime scene when police arrive theres a sense of knowing they will take care of it here
- Or visiting a doctor, or the arrival of a firefighter

Uniforms (suits) we wear also remind us who we are

- What you wear becomes a reminder of who you are
- It reaffirms your identity
- Example when's I was 16 in My first job had a uniform to wear that made me feel very special

Wearing the right clothes

- Its one things looking at external dress and clothes
- It's another to think through how we suit up in our lives
- What are you clothed with - Anger, selfishness, love, materialism, insecurity, fear, mistrust - We are all wearing attitudes and characteristics. They may not been seen with natural eye but people don't have to be around us long before what we are wearing becomes clear

Key Text - Five things to suit up with

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. **1 Corinthians 16:13-14**

1. Be on your guard - Speaking of being clothed with an alert mind and heart

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8**

- So much to be alert against
- It's often the little things we need to be most wary of
- Alert to wrong attitudes

Song of Songs 2:15 NIV

[15] Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. **Proverbs 4:23**

2. Stand firm in the faith - Speaking of being clothed with Christ and our relationship with him

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. **Romans 13:14**

- The only place to stand firm is in our faith
- Our faith in God
- Our relationship with him is what holds us steady during the seasons of life

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"
by Edward Mote, 1797-1874

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
3. His oath, His covenant, and blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When every earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne!
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

3. Be courageous - Clothed with courage

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

A. Sometimes you have to encourage yourself in the Lord

B. Sometimes its others who you walk with that give you courage

- Courage comes from who we walk with
- Our walk with God
- Our walk with others
- One the enemies tactics is to Isolate people.

4. Be strong - Clothed with strength

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **Ephesians 6:10**

- Strength is developed
- It's developed by having to push and Pull
- The tough times in life have the potential to develop strength in us
- Some people throw the weight around and others realise that if handle this properly it can make me stronger

5. Do everything in love - Clothed in love

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. [2] If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. [3-7] If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe,

and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end. Love never dies. **1 Corinthians 13:1-10 MSG**

Conclusion - It's time to suit up

- the truth is none of us can do this on our own
- We were not created to live in isolation or to struggle through trying to make it on our own
- Life is designed to be lived in community
- It's time to suit up and clothe yourself in
 - Be on your guard - alert
 - Clothe yourself with Christ
 - Clothe yourself with courage
 - Clothe yourself in Strength
 - Clothe yourself in love

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offence. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. **Colossians 3.12-14**