

# *Dancing with God:*

## **If God is my Dance Partner, Why Don't I Let Him Lead?**

### **Getting to know you question:**

Describe your most favorite dress/Share picture

### **Introduction:**

It had been many years since I went dress shopping for a special dress for myself. When I was in high school, either my mother or I made my dress, usually from material we purchased from the remnants purchased from the near-by Marion Rhor factory – they made women's dainties. I barely remember choosing dresses with our daughters. What I remember is over the three years they attended dances they shared dresses with their friends.

A few years ago I was privileged to go shopping for a Homecoming Dance dress and then a Senior Ball gown with Sissi, our Chinese exchange student. Sissi, her high school friend and went shopping where they tried on every ball gown in the mall. What fun! Some gowns were gaudy, some to 'old' looking, some boring and some looked beautiful on her friend but just didn't do anything for Sissi. Then she found the perfect dress elegant and understated – just right for her.

Choosing the perfect dress involves more than simply seeing a dress on a mannequin or modelled in a catalog. What looks graceful and stunning on a willowy model will often look less than stellar on my short, plump body. I must take into consideration my physical characteristics, my destination.

### **Louise's experience:**

A Christian must choose how to act. When I was working, it was very easy to get caught up in the negativity and bad behavior at the office. I had to choose how I acted. I prayed daily that I will be 'kind and gentle' at work. Here is one small example of a choice I made.

I worked for a company in Rochester for 18 years when it was bought out. The new management laid-off the director of our group, a woman I greatly admired, and replaced her with a man who was so shy he virtually hid in his office. Needless to say, old-timers like me had nothing good to say about him. At some point, God created in me a spirit of compassion for him. I realized how un-Christ-like I was behaving. I decided to quit bad mouthing him with my peers and to make friends with him. So, every morning as I passed his office, I said 'Good Morning'; and when I passed him in the hall, 'Hi'. Not a big deal. It was much harder to stay out of the gossip. I wish I could say I made a significant impact on the environment. Not much changed, but the director did start returning my greeting; and when I retired 2 years later, he attended the going away party for a

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few minutes to say thanks and good bye to me. Sometime later I was chatting with one of my friends who was still working for him. She told me he spoke positively about me often – I must have made some sort of impact.

A little thing for sure, but I had to be intentional in my actions. I chose my attitude – an attitude of love and respect for him.

### **Scripture:**

Col 3:12 – 17

### **Discussion:**

Why do you think Paul uses the metaphor of clothing?

What are some of the attitudes the Bible says are important to put on for a Christ follower?

Describe a time you intentionally adopted an attitude not coming naturally to you.

Is it easy to adopt a new attitude?

What Christian attitude do you need the 'most' work on?

What do you think 'in the name of' means in this verse: Col 3:17

Read Col 1:12; Col 2:6 - 7; Col 3: 15b – 16; Col 4:2; Phil 4:4-9

What attitude is stressed in each verse? Why is it important to cultivate a thankful attitude? What are you most thankful for?

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**Bonus:**

**Scripture:**

Gal 5: 22–26

**Discussion:**

Why do you think we are instructed to clothe ourselves with attitudes also identified as fruit of the Spirit?

How do we get more fruit of the Spirit in our lives?

This is a cooperative endeavor caused by our relationship with Christ as we grow by faith in Him.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the continual and indispensable application of God's work in us that spurs our growing, effectual, spiritual development.

We are called to walk in the Spirit.

**Garments Of Praise** Jamie Harvill

Put on the garments of praise  
For the spirit of heaviness  
Let the oil of gladness flow  
Down from Your throne  
Put on the garments of praise  
For the spirit of heaviness  
Your joy is my strength alone  
My strength alone