Sermon:

Colossians 3.12: **You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

Romans 12.2: **let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind.**

Romans 5.10: **We were God’s enemies, but he made us his friends through the death of his Son.**

In winter I get dressed in my living room, where the heart pump is on. Must make sure I have the right clothes for the day – garden clothes are not the same as those for work. What we wear might be colour co-ordinated.
Many people choose carefully their clothes. Colossians 3.12: As Christians we put on this chosen ‘clothing’.

It is easy to think that is all we need do. External clothes can change us on the inside - I wear special shoes on Sundays – feel smarter, but simply putting on a dog collar does not make you a presbyter. Humility and patience can be put on with no internal meaning. *Saying* sorry need not mean you are sorry *inside*.

To some degree there must be an *inward* transformation too: Romans 12.2.

This is the true purpose of the Resurrection. If Resurrection only produces surface change in us, then it has failed and God has failed.

God wants to transform us (Romans 12.2). How and in what ways?

Paul, who was God’s enemy, persecuting God’s Resurrection people, was changed from enemy to friend: Romans 5.10.

Enemies? How do you relate differently to enemies as to friends?

[1] Spend time together – prayer, Bible, worship

[2] Share the same activities – follow what Jesus did.

[3] Receive and give help – intercession and mission.

[4] Above all, you yearn for your friends, want the best for them, have love for them.

Is all this true for your relationship with God? This should not be a chore, a duty, but a joy, easily done.

If any of this *is* a chore then ask God for a deeper inward transformation.