

BUILT DIFFERENT: Starting Fresh w/ Jesus

June 14, 2026

Message Summary.

Starting fresh with Jesus means taking off the old life AND putting on the character of Christ. Jesus has forgiven us and made us new, and we are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love. His peace guides our decisions, His Word transforms our hearts, and His presence shapes every area of our lives.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Colossians 3:12-14 | Believers are called to put on Christlike character.

Colossians 3:15 | The peace of Christ is to rule in our hearts and guide us as we live together in unity.

Colossians 3:16 | God's Word should daily dwell richly within us through teaching, encouragement, worship.

Colossians 3:17 | Everything we do, our words, actions, and attitudes, should be done for the glory of Jesus.

Luke 15:11-24 | God welcomes repentant people home, gives them a new identity, and graciously restores them.

Start Talking.

1. Have you ever gotten completely dirty from work, sports, mud, etc? What was the first thing you wanted to do afterward?
2. Why do you think people often struggle to leave old habits behind even when they know those habits are unhealthy?
3. When you hear the phrase "starting fresh," what comes to mind?

Start Thinking.

- Why does Paul describe the Christian life using the imagery of taking off old clothes and putting on new ones?
- Which Christlike quality seems most needed in our culture today?
- Why is forgiveness often difficult even when we know Jesus has forgiven us?
- What is the difference between peace from circumstances and Jesus's peace?
- How can God's Word reshape our thinking and become our "new default setting"?

- Why do you think Paul connects spiritual growth with relationships inside the church family?



Start Sharing.

1. Which part of the sermon challenged or encouraged you most?
2. Which item from Paul's "new wardrobe" do you wear well? Which one is most difficult?
3. Is there a relationship where God may be calling you to show more compassion, patience, or forgiveness?
4. Have you ever experienced the peace of Christ guiding you through a difficult decision? What happened?
5. What tends to compete for your attention and crowd out God's Word?
6. How has Scripture, worship music, or bible teaching helped shape your thinking?
7. Is there an area of your life where you've been tempted to put the "old clothes" on?
8. What would it look like for you to "put on Christ" this week in a practical way?

Start Praying.

Jesus, thank You for giving us a fresh start through Your death and resurrection. Thank You for forgiving our sins and making us new. Help us put off the old ways of living and clothe ourselves with Your character. Let Your peace guide our decisions, and Your Word shape our hearts. Make us more like You. Amen.

Start Doing.

- Read Colossians 3:12-17 and ask God to highlight an area for you to grow.
- Intentionally practice an area of Christlike character every day this week.
- Spend time praying about a decision or situation for the peace of Christ to guide.
- Listen to worship music or Scripture-based songs during the day.
- Reach out to one person this week with encouragement, forgiveness, prayer, or practical help.