

"I Bought It"

If you had looked in my closet months after I got married, you would have seen some cute little dresses and tops that I had worn since the 8th grade. The problem was, they were not so cute to my husband. He deemed them out of style. I had this turquoise green sweater vest, with an off-white long sleeve blouse, that tied into a big bow under the chin. I loved it, loved it, loved it! My grandmother bought it for me. How could one go wrong with that, right? Well, it was a "no-go" with my husband. Do you know what he offered to do? He offered to buy every outfit in my closet he did not like and told me to go get a new outfit to replace it. Believe it or not, some were hard to give up. He took them out of my line up of clothes and placed them in the back of his closet.

Several weeks later we were to meet for an event at the church. I had worked late, so the plan was just to meet my husband there. I hadn't replaced the outfits just yet, and when I went to get dressed for the event, I reached to the back of his closet and pulled out the turquoise green sweater and off-white blouse. It was perfect! When my husband saw me, I smiled real big, and he whispered in my ear, "That's my shirt and vest, I paid for it! You do not have my permission to wear it. Now, go and take it off!"

We laughed!

In life, there are character traits that we have had for a long time. We may not think much about them. When Jesus comes, he says, "You know, unkindness, lying, slander, jealousy, and complacency etc. have been in your closet a long time. I bought them with my blood. They are no longer yours to wear, I have paid a high price for you. Take off those ugly clothes that you think are so pretty and put on something much more beautiful...My righteousness, humility, love, faithfulness, and goodness.

"Throw off your old sinful nature and your former ways of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception, instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like

God-truly righteous and holy." Ephesians 4:22-23