

Extreme Makeover!

By Shari Miller

[For study guide helps, click on the *Quarterly* button at www.lwml.org or contact the LWML Office.]

*Please use material provided as time allows.

What one thing about yourself would you like to change if you could? Share with the group or a partner.

Begin with prayer: Dear Gracious Father, be with us as we study Your Word! Thank You for sending Your Son to be our Savior and to rise to eternal life, that we, too, might live eternally. Send Your Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in this study of Your Word of Truth. In Jesus' mighty Name, Amen.



Reality makeover television shows seem to attract wide audiences. People are interested in changing their looks, houses, and even their spouses in an attempt to make themselves and their surroundings “new” and, they think, “better.” We have all probably at one time or another wanted to change our lives, move, make our looks different, start over...begin again.

NEW!

Because of our human nature, why *must* we all be made “new”?

Romans 3:23

1 John 1:8

Romans 6:23a

God promises in His Word to make us a “new” creation...to give us an “extreme makeover,” so to speak. When did (does) this happen?

1 Corinthians 15:3 (Romans 6:8)

Ephesians 5:2

Romans 6:6-11, 23b

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Romans 6:4

Luke 22:19-20

* **For further discussion:** God graciously renews your heart and mind through His gift of faith that is strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament. How important is it to spend time hearing and studying God's Word? To remember our Baptism daily? To receive Holy Communion regularly? Why?

NEW APPEARANCE!

Our loving Father promises to make over our **appearance** because of Christ's redeeming work done for us on the cross. Read the following passages below and identify the changes God makes in our lives and how these changes could impact our appearance and daily life.

	Changes	Impact
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Psalm 51:2

1 Samuel 16:7

Ezekiel 16:8-14

Ecclesiastes 8:1

Titus 3:5

Ephesians 5:25-27

Hebrews 9:14

Proverbs 31:30

1 Peter 3:3-4

Revelation 22:14

* **For further discussion:** "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is a wise and well-known maxim. How does God behold us (His children by grace)?

NEW APPAREL

Our gracious Savior also promises us new **apparel**. A man who recently experienced a complete cosmetic makeover on one of the popular makeover reality television shows was quick to point out that not only did his appearance get radically altered (new teeth, liposuction, hair transplants), but before he could present his new appearance to his family and friends, he had to have a whole new wardrobe...a whole new set of clothes!

Read **Genesis 3:21** and its context for the first record of clothes in the Bible. Who clothed Adam and Eve? To clothe them, what did God most likely have to do? What significance do these actions symbolize for the future? See **Isaiah 61:10**, **Romans 13:14** and **Galatians 3:27**.

Read the following passages for a description of our new Godly apparel:

Colossians 3:12

1 Peter 3:3-4

1 Peter 5:5

1 Corinthians 15:53

Revelation 3:18

* **For further discussion:** New clothes are often given as a birthday or Christmas gift. Discuss how the new clothes that God gives to us could be described as “the gift that keeps on giving”?

* **For further discussion:** After purchasing or receiving the gift of new clothes, the first tendency is put on our new apparel and “show it off” to our family, friends and anyone who happens to be around. How can we “show off” our new Godly apparel to those around us? Give specific examples.

NEW ATTITUDE!

Our ever-present Holy Spirit promises us a new attitude! Our attitude often influences our actions. Read the following Bible passages and identify God-given attitudes and/or resulting actions.

Attitudes

Actions

Deuteronomy 31:23; Psalm 27:1

Galatians 5:22-25

Ephesians 4:22-24; 29-32

Philippians 2:1-11 (12-18)

Colossians 4:5-6

1 Peter 4:1; 5:5-7

Read **Colossians 3:16**. Paul talks about an attitude of gratitude. How do we show our gratitude to God for His many gifts to us?

* **For further discussion:** Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and share insights about the “wife of noble character.” What are her Godly attitudes? What actions result from those attitudes? What one particular characteristic of hers would you like to strive to achieve with the help of the Holy Spirit?

In summary, God gives each of His dear children an “extreme makeover” every day! Because of Jesus and His saving work done for us on the cross of Calvary,


God makes us His new creation. The Triune God gives us new appearance, apparel, and attitude. But wait! Our generous God gives one more NEW surprise. Read **Isaiah 65:17, 2 Peter 3:13** and **Revelation 21:5**.

As fellow believers in Christ, we are the daily recipients of our extraordinary God's life-changing extreme makeover! *Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ!* (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Close this study by praying and/or singing the words of "May God the Father of Our Lord" for one another. (LW 254; tune – Tallis' Canon)

May God the Father of our Lord, Who called you by His holy Word,
Perfect, establish, settle you, Keep you through faith forever true.
In Jesus Christ may you be blest And brought to His eternal rest.
The work He has in you begun He will perform till all is done.
The Holy Spirit give you pow'r, The strength of prayer in ev'ry hour,
The wisdom, knowledge, fear of God That lifts above His chast'ning rod.
May God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Preserve you blameless till in grace You stand before His holy face.

Shari Miller resides in Helena, Montana, and is the wife of Rev. Larry and mother of Joshua and Johanna. She has authored numerous Bible studies and Program Helps sold in the LWML Catalog. Shari has held positions in national, district, zone and local LWML levels. She is currently a member of the Quarterly staff.



bible study

God's Sure Word in the Midst of Change

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By Rev. Darold Reiner

INTRODUCTION

Tell about a change that occurred recently in your life, church, school, or community.

Someone once said that we can't wade in the same river twice. That is so true! The waters that we have to cross as families or individuals are so different. Times change!