

## YOU CANNOT WEAR THAT

On Saturday morning I went to the market early to get potatoes and apples before it got busy. I had not had a chance to shower before going so I put on my Toronto Blue Jays baseball cap to cover my messy hair. I did not think much of it when I put the ball cap on, but somebody at the market did when he saw me wearing it.

If you are a baseball fan you know that the Toronto Blue Jays were eliminated from post season action last week after two disappointing losses to the Minnesota Twins. As I was walking by this one vendor he said to me, "You can't wear that hat anymore." Like many of us he too was disappointed by the Jays early exit from the playoffs and felt I should put away my hat until the start of another season.

As I said, I did not think about this before putting it on and was more concerned that it covered my messy hair. I do have a Leafs hat, but it has been sitting on the top shelf of our closet since they lost in the second round of the playoffs last spring. I am glad this vendor did not see my watch because I was wearing my Toronto Blue Jays' one at the time. I guess it is time for me to put away my Blue Jays hat and pull out my Leaf one now that the baseball season is over.

This vendor's words to me got me thinking about similar words spoken by Paul when it comes to certain attitudes and behaviours we can no longer wear once we become Christians. In **Colossians 3**, Paul shares with Christians the new nature we should be wearing and living once we accept Christ as our Savior. He starts off by reminding believers of some of their behaviours before they came to Christ:

***You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him (Colossians 3:7-10).***

Much like the vendor at the market said to me, Paul is telling believers here that we can no longer wear any of the sinful natures we once did prior to following Jesus. Just like I did with my hat, sometimes we put back on these old natures without thinking. As we read through Paul's list here, perhaps we might recognize some of these behaviours that we are still wearing at times. If this is the case than maybe we are hearing the Holy Spirit telling us right now, "You cannot wear these things anymore!" If we are hearing the Holy Spirit telling us the same, let's stop wearing and put away for good these old natures that are not Christ-like so that we can be living more like Him.

As I mentioned earlier this vendor did not see that I was wearing a Toronto Blue Jay watch at the time. I do have a Toronto Maple Leaf watch and am wondering if it is time to change watches now that the baseball season is over for our team. The only problem is when I looked at my Leaf watch yesterday it was running 15 minutes behind. Is it a sign of how the season will go for my beloved Leafs?

Keep safe and God bless,  
Pastor Dean