

In 1964 Merv Griffin debuted the TV show “Jeopardy.” There have been several versions over the decades but I am going to make a guess here that at some point in the last almost 50 years most of you have seen an episode or two of Jeopardy. If it has been a while the basic game goes like this: there is a board that lists several different categories. You choose a category and pick one of about six hidden answers on the board. Then the contestant has to ask the right question to match the answer on the board.

Let’s try it. Our category is **US Presidents**. Let’s say you pick the cheap and therefore fairly easy answer which is “*The founder of our country who did not really chop down a cherry tree.*” And the question is....”Who is George Washington?”

Now let’s change categories to **Theological Terminology**. We’re feeling pretty confident here so we go for one of the more high priced answers and it is: *The Son of Man*. Someone who was paying attention today’s gospel might buzz in with, “Who is Jesus?” But that is an incorrect answer; the category is **theological terminology** – not persons in the NT.

Well, don’t feel bad. The fact is that there are a couple of phrases in the readings today that we all have heard before, we know they mean something important but we are not exactly sure what that is. The first one we will look at is SON of MAN from the gospel and the other is “put on Christ” or “clothe yourself in Christ” from St Paul.

If you just look at the words, it would seem logical that the son of man would be another man, or just **A** man. But since this is “son of man” spoken with sort of capital letter, the English equivalent

might be more like, “**The Man**,” in the way someone might admire or recognize a friend’s achievement and say “You’re the man.”

In the context of scripture, it goes even further and means something like, “You are the ideal man; you are the pattern for what every other human should be.” When Jesus uses the term Son of Man it basically described the relationship he has with God. It is the close relationship of father to son that God had intended for all of humanity, it was the unique relationship that Jesus claimed and it was the pattern of life that Jesus wanted to offer to everyone.

So our Jeopardy question might go something like: what term did Jesus use for his relationship to the Father and his offer to us? That is an important but a bit complex question – it should probably be saved for double jeopardy.

The other answer we find on the board comes from Paul who uses the phrase “to clothe ourselves with Christ.” The easy question might be something like, “how do you win 1st prize at costume party at the Vatican?” but again that doesn’t really fit the category of **Theological terminology**.

Think of it like this, at awards shows the TV commentators will often say something like, “She is wearing Verasche; or he is wearing Armani.” It means they have chosen a style, a look that is very easily identified and they hope that that style – whether it is simple or outlandish or elegant or creative – that that style says something about who they are. That is almost exactly the way Paul is using this phrase. He is talking to new Christians who stepped out of the waters of baptism and needed a new look, a new identity. When people look at us they should see Christ at

work. That should be our style. But since he recommends this look for everyone it also means that there is a common style among the followers of Christ, we are united as a family and no one wearing the team Jesus t-shirt can ever be subject to discrimination or exclusion. It doesn't matter if our wardrobe is full of designer originals or Wal-Mart bargains. We should always be identified as a follower of Jesus and that should be the style that best describes us.

SO what would be a good Jeopardy question here? How about, "How does being baptized change our life?"

If you are ever traveling on vacation and end up a contestant on Jeopardy be careful of the theological terminology category, the answers may sound familiar but the questions could be a bit complex.