

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



July 28, 2019

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

How Should We Dress for Worship?

This may not be an issue at your church. If it isn't, there is no need for you to spend time reading this article. But in some places, the "how should we dress for worship?" question is rather controversial. Some feel strongly about this, and whenever people feel strongly about an issue the Bible does not much address, we are apt to find imbalance.

On one end of the spectrum is the "we should give God our best" group of people. While I've never heard **any** Christian say we shouldn't give God our best (cf. Col. 3:23), this group argues that giving God our best specifically means, in part, men wearing a "suit and tie" or women wearing a dress to worship. Some in this group would even claim that we honor God by our formal attire—it is actually a display of **irreverence** (or at least betrays an unrefined or easygoing attitude to worship) to dress down in some way. "It was discouraging to see so few men wearing ties," I've heard said more than once.

On the other end of the spectrum is the "we need to be real" group of people. While I've never heard any Christian say we shouldn't be genuine (cf. 1 John 3:18), this group argues that dressing up too much is actually a form of immodesty (i.e. ostentatiousness). "If we worship God from the heart, the externals will take care of themselves," this group argues. They see no direct Biblical or cultural correlation today between **reverence** and **formal attire**. Some grew up in churches that were in fact shallow in their teaching while putting an inordinate emphasis on external appearances (perhaps you have at least visited churches like this), and now—for better or for worse—formal worship attire for these same people is reminiscent of dysfunctional Christianity. They are apt to find an unspoken "suit and tie" dress code to be stuffy, artificial, and pretentious. As societal norms change, outsiders may increasingly feel uncomfortable among churches that expect formal attire. "People were so dressed up at this church, I found it distracting," I've heard said more than once.

How do we find the truth on this matter? To answer the question, we need to first be impressed with the absence of "book, chapter, verse" commands in the Bible about how to specifically dress for worship. Compared to the Old Testament, it is striking how **indifferent** the New Testament is about such things as worship buildings, worship attire, weekly worship times, worship rituals, worship length, or ceremonial objects. The reason being is the Old Testament worship was a shadow of the mystery that has now been revealed. In the New Testament, the focus is on the reality and preeminence of Christ, not the shadow and copy of religious objects and forms (see Heb. 7:26–8:7). The Old Testament pattern is not our standard, and thus we must not bind today where God has not bound. We should never introduce conditions to worship that God has not instituted (cf. Matt. 15:1-3).

With that being said, there are two (2) governing principles in the New Testament that **do** dictate how we should dress in a worship setting.

Christians must dress modestly.

"...Women should **adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire**" (1 Tim. 2:9). Interestingly, this is the only passage in the New Testament that specifically addresses

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our clothing in a worship context (though it is relevant outside of worship, too).

Christians here are commanded to wear clothes that are *aidōs*, or discrete/restrained. The KJV perhaps more accurately translates the word today rendered “modesty” as “shamefacedness.” There are parts of the body that are shameful to reveal or expose (cf. 1 Cor. 12:23).

Clothing is immodest, and therefore inappropriate, in one of two ways: (1) If it is sexually revealing, or (2) if it invites an inordinate amount of attention to oneself. It is immodest to wear clothing that is too short, too tight, or too revealing. Furthermore, it is immodest to dress so extravagantly that everyone can’t help but notice **you**. Do we assemble so we can glory in ourselves, or so we can glory in the Father? Our attire should be both **muted** and **chaste**.

One area of personal frustration is the inconsistency among a few churches with shepherds who enforce a “suit and tie” policy (perhaps for worship leaders), yet who seemingly do nothing to ensure members—specifically women—are taught to dress in a sexually modest fashion. In the first case, the Bible more or less silent, but in the other case, the Bible is very clear.

Christians must dress so as not to offend

The only other passage that references how to dress in the context of church life is 1 Peter 5:5: “**Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble**” (1 Peter 5:5). While this verse is using clothing metaphorically, the principle is applicable to our actual clothing—we must dress in a way that is in step with the Christians around us. Are my clothes primarily about **my** tastes, or am I living for a higher calling?

This is why it is difficult to give a cookie-cutter answer to the question, “How should we dress for worship?” Not every congregation shares the same cultural nuances. I know in some churches, it is expected that members dress in a more formal manner. Here, attire does communicate reverence. In which case, many would find it objectionable to intentionally wear jeans and a t-shirt.

Wearing such would be offensive and distracting. In other churches, you generally see members dressing in a more casual or business-casual manner. In which case, wearing a suit and tie can be objectionable and distracting (and also, in this setting a “suit and tie” could actually be immodest). Christians are to adapt to their cultural surroundings (1 Cor. 9:19-27; cf. 1 Cor. 11:2-16). Perhaps a good question for a Christian to ask himself in whatever culture he finds himself is this: “What statement am I making with my attire?” **Different cultures speak different languages, not only words and local dialects, but in their norms of dress.**

When we assemble, we are to serve one another. “*Whoever would be great among you must be your servant*” (Matt. 20:26). **If I am knowingly “pushing the envelope” with my attire by dressing in a way that draws undue attention to myself, I have developed—perhaps unintentionally—a divisive attitude.** Christian fellowship is about submitting to one another (Eph. 5:21). That means worship is not about me nor is it about my preferences. Paul said he would not do something as simple as eating meat among Christians if he knew there was a brother present who had a conscience issue with it (1 Cor. 8:13). If men wear suits, then wear a suit. If people don’t, then don’t.

“*Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe*” (Heb. 12:28). Does this apply to how we are to dress for worship? It certainly does. But culture plays an important role in dictating how norms of dress communicate reverence. (And, increasingly in American society, a “suit and tie” doesn’t always best communicate reverence.)

Let’s Make Worship More Meaningful

There is a stunning de-emphasis in the New Testament on clothing in the worship assembly. “*If a man wearing ... fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a man ... in shabby clothing also comes in,*” you are not to make “*distinctions*” between the two. To do so would be “*evil*” (James 2:2-4). Doesn’t this mean clothing should be a non-issue for us today? If our metric for acceptable worship is, “How many are wearing suits and ties?” then

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

July 28 2 Chronicles 5—8

July 29 2 Chronicles 9—12

July 30 2 Chronicles 13—16

July 31 2 Chronicles 17—20

Aug. 1 2 Chronicles 23—24

Aug. 2 2 Chronicles 25—28

Aug. 3 2 Chronicles 29—32

Aug. 4 2 Chronicles 33—36

“*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **43 contacts** were made.

Announcements

◆ Church Directory:

- New directory pages are available.
- A “directory changes” sheet is available to update pages currently in your directory.
- If you need a new picture (some of our pictures are quite old), please see Cindy McCaghren ASAP.
- ◆ There is a **sign-up sheet** on the back table for things needed when we host the **Summer Youth Series** next Tuesday. Mainly cookies needed at this point. In addition to things on the sheet, help is always appreciated moving tables and chairs before and after.
- ◆ There is a **new Spiritual Sword** available on the back table: “*A Handy Guide to New Testament Churches*”
- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** Tuesday evening at 7:00 at **Rising Star**. Ours is next week!
- ◆ Ladies—**TLC 2019** (Oct. 3-5) is currently full, but you can still get on the waiting list and keep your fingers crossed! texasladiesinchrist.org.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 6—We host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ Oct. 19—Ladies Day w/ Denise Surlles
- ◆ Oct. 27-30—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Bryan Braswell

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ August 16-22—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)
- ◆ Oct. 3-5—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat @ Brady
- ◆ Oct. 12-30—Lectureship @ Hico
- ◆ Oct. 19-20—Lectureship @ Hamilton

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we are practicing a very shallow Christianity. “Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear” (1 Pet. 3:3). Here’s a suggestion: Let’s try to be less fault-finding of one another and of congregations in matters where God has allowed human judgment.

There are real concerns that should be present at every congregation. Are there substantive, meaty, convicting lessons being taught from the pulpit? Are the elders ensuring sound doctrine is being practiced? Are members being held accountable and being challenged to grow? Is there an emphasis on living holy lives? Is there an atmosphere of love and patience? These are battles worth fighting. Let’s restore New Testament Christianity. Our battles need to be kept from a more biblical perspective. Let us press on to maturity (Heb. 6:1-2).

But one hill not worth dying on is maintaining today how people dressed “in the good ole’ days.” That is irrelevant in our task of going back to the Bible. We are not interested in restoring religion how it may have been practiced in American yesteryear. Maintaining traditions of dress for the sake of traditions, without being mindful of the cultural landscape, is inherently sectarian. What should we wear to worship? Dress modestly and humbly in a way that is expected at your congregation—in a way that does not detract from our reverence of God. That way, we can more easily keep our eyes on Jesus.

Ben Giselbach (plainsimplefaith.com)

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

August Birthdays: Joe Dennis (9), Rafe Smith (11), Jessica Dennis (13), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Ryan Rudloff (20), Roy Dodson (29), Coyce Reed (30).

August Anniversaries: Matthew and Kaci Churchwell (15), Don and Darlene Smith (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	July 14, 2019	July 21, 2019
Bible Class	44	49
AM Worship	50	53
PM Worship	36	43
Wednesday PM	35	35
Contribution	\$1,921	\$2,374

	This Week: 7/28/19	Next Week: 8/4/19		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	<p align="center">July 2019 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller</p> <p align="center">August 2019 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Mike and Patti Bannister Clean Building: Mike and Patti Bannister</p>	
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum	Allen & Linda Griffith		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	James Fuller		
Communion	James Fuller*, Allen Griffith Joe Dennis, Vernon Zier	Kevin Ross*, Coyce Reed Don Smith, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Don Smith	Ryan Rudloff		
Communion	James Fuller	Kevin Ross		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Joe Dennis		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 31 Don Smith	August 7 Prayer Night	August 14 Joe Dennis	August 21 Rafe Smith

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of July 28, 2019

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 6:5*
 Wed. Class *Servant Training: Prayer*

<p align="center"><u>Receiving Instruction vs. Refusing Reproof</u></p> <p>The ability to learn and grow is a wonderful blessing. God has created mankind with a powerful intellect and volition. The book of Proverbs has much to say relative to <i>receiving instruction</i> and <i>rejecting reproof</i>.</p> <p>I. The Wisdom of Receiving Instruction.</p> <p>A. When one sees the benefits of receiving instruction, he will see that buying such is a great investment which pays rich dividends.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receiving Instruction will make one wise (9:9; 19:20). 2. Receiving instruction gives one the ability to walk in the way of life (10:17). 3. God states that one is a fool who despises his father's instruction (15:5). <p>B. What attitude or disposition must one possess to obtain wisdom?</p> <p>II. The Folly of Rejecting Reproof.</p> <p>A. The basic thought of "reproof" is "finding fault".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If there is a fault in our lives, we need to know it in order to make correction. 2. Scriptural reproof is given from a desire to see one become a faithful child of God. <p>B. Proverbs warn of those who will not be reproofed (9:7-8; 10:8, 17; 12:1, 15; 13:13; 15:10; 28:9; 29:1).</p> <p>C. There are great benefits in receiving reproof (13:18; 15:5; 17:10; 25:12).</p> <p>III. Take Heed How You Hear (Lk. 8:18).</p> <p>A. We are not only to take heed <i>what</i> we hear (Mk. 4:24), but also <i>how</i> we hear.</p> <p>B. The following Scriptures from Proverbs show the importance of God's Word in our lives, especially as it relates to instruction and reproof (14:6; 16:21-23; 18:15; 22:17-21; 23:9; 24:5; 28:4-5, 14; 28:23).</p> <p>IV. Seek Wise Counsel.</p> <p>A. Most have sought counsel from those who have given their lives to a faithful study and proclamation of God's Word; those with <i>experience</i> and <i>wisdom</i>.</p> <p>B. Wisdom is sought on <i>how</i> to apply the Word of God in a particular situation.</p> <p>V. Where There is No Revelation, The People Cast Off Restraint (29:18).</p> <p>A. This passage, along with a host of others, shows the need of the Divine revelation being faithfully <i>proclaimed</i> and <i>heeded</i>.</p>	<p align="center"><u>Responsibilities in Relationships (Col. 3:18 – 4:1)</u></p> <p align="center"><i>Husbands to Wives, Children to Parents, Fathers to Children (3:19-21)</i></p> <p>I. Husbands to Wives (19).</p> <p>A. The submissive role of the wife is made easier if she has a compassionate and loving husband who will not be an overbearing tyrant.</p> <p>B. The actions of husbands toward their wives are to be controlled by <i>love</i>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He is not to be <i>bitter</i> against her. 2. Paul wrote an excellent description of how love leads one to act in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. 3. By being loving and kind and not returning evil for evil (Rom. 12:17), a husband can build a <i>peaceful</i> and <i>harmonious</i> relationship with his wife. 4. The husband is not encouraged to dominate his wife and demand that she submit to him; rather, he is told to <i>love</i> his wife. <p>II. Children to Parents (20).</p> <p>A. "Children, obey your parents in all things" (20a).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Children</i> (τέκνα) = "offspring" or "descendants"; it does not specify age. 2. <i>Wives</i> are called upon to give "voluntary submission," while "absolute obedience" is demanded of children and slaves. 3. Paul said that children are to <i>obey [their] parents in all things</i>. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This command is not to be considered unlimited (God still comes first). b. Children are not to pick and choose which of their parents' requirements they <i>want</i> to obey. 4. As a rule, children who are obedient enjoy long life because God blesses them and because they develop healthier attitudes and lifestyles. <p>B. "For this is well pleasing to the Lord" (20b).</p> <p>III. Fathers to Children (21).</p> <p>A. While children are to be obedient, the father is not to be so demanding and unreasonable that he frustrates his children.</p> <p>B. Fathers can provoke their children by harsh commands, correction for every little fault, demands that are too strict, or severe punishment.</p> <p>C. Valuable advice to help parents develop the character of a child is found in Proverbs (13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17).</p> <p>D. Treatment of children that is either too harsh or that shows lack of understanding on the part of parents can cause children to <i>become discouraged</i>.</p>
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