



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBA

Weekly Bible Studies
Tuesdays on Zoom

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday
Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing
September 3, 7:30

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Christ
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DRESS AND THE ASSEMBLY

I've followed with some interest a post on Facebook concerning dress in the assembly. The post has more than a hundred comments at the time of this writing. Many of them are gracious while others have, unsurprisingly, descended into name-calling and accusation. In this article I wish to set forth what I believe to be a biblical approach to the question. My prayer is that you find it thought provoking and helpful.

My personal views have changed over the years to, what I hope, is an understanding more in line with Scripture. In the past I argued that when we come together to worship God, we need to offer him our very best (which I still believe) and the clothing we wear is part of that. Many of the comments on the post are making this argument from Malachi 1:6-9, a passage that I also often used, to make their point. I now believe inserting clothing in that passage is a misuse. It has nothing to do with dress at all. Please take a moment to read it now. The sacrifice itself was the problem. Their offerings were deficient because the hearts offering them were deficient. There is no reason to believe the priests were *not* wearing priestly garments. Even so, they were not offering their best to God.

I fear the idea of "offering our best to God", which is abundantly biblical, is being considered more in light of man's wisdom and tradition than in what God reveals about what He considers best. Interestingly, when the New Testament speaks of clothing in a "dressing up" context, it does so unfavorably. Jesus condemns the scribes and Pharisees for their pride in *making their phylacteries broad and their fringes long*. (Matthew 23:5) In 1 Timothy 2:8-10, Paul is concerned that men and women adorn themselves with holy lives, not fancy clothing. Indeed, the only qualification for clothing in this passage is that it be modest and respectable. James urges Christians not to be partial to those in fancy clothing for it has nothing

Members Needing Our Prayers

Rick Small, Ralph Fox, Pat Seabolt, Benny Poynter, The Litmer family, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayers

Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Debbie Lanphear, Veronica Bowman

To Our Guests

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to do with determining a person's character. (James 2:1-13) Indeed, it may even stand in the way.

If your conscience prompts you to wear a suit, sports coat, or dress when you gather with brethren to worship God, then so be it. It is no sin nor is it necessarily evidence of pride. At the same time, understand that it is not sign of deeper spirituality or better standing before God. Brethren who are not so inclined are in no way inferior.

If you are not inclined to wear a suit, sports coat, or dress when you gather to worship with brethren, then so be it. It is no sin nor is it necessarily evidence of a cavalier attitude. Ensure that whatever you wear is modest and respectable. At the same time, understand that it is not a sign of deeper spirituality or better standing before God. Brethren who are inclined to wear what you don't are in no way inferior.

May we strive to value what God values. May we learn to reckon and assess as He does. As with all things, when our hearts are filled with love, joy, thankfulness, and service, everything will take care of itself. Let us always be *eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*. (Ephesians 4:3) Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

