

TRADITIONS IIO

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All About God

- Church services should be about worshipping God and fellowshiping with like minded believers. The Ekklesia is the “set apart” group of people that believe Jesus is Lord and God’s word is the source of supreme validity. *Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;*
- The gathering of the saints should not be about us, but it should be about growing in God and exhorting the saints of God. *Heb. 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
- Selfish motives have invaded many churches and church is becoming more about gaining the approval of others than giving our all to God. *Phil. 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.*

Dressing up

- Many people make a big deal about what is worn to church because they feel it is a mandate of God to be dressed up when we come before Him. *Gen. 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:*
- Clothing is not at all important to God when we gather together, but because of church traditions, many are discriminated against and even judged when they do not dress up to the level of others. *1Sam. 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

- Looking good, smelling good, and feeling good about it are not sins. But vanity is a sin. When we are motivated to dress better than others or get the attention of others, then we are being vain and seeking glory that belongs to God alone. *Gal. 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*



Modesty

- When we dress, modesty should be exercised at all times. We should examine ourselves thoroughly before we leave our homes to make sure we are not exposing ourselves lasciviously to others. *1Tim. 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*
- Wearing clothes to attract attention or tempt others causes us to be stumbling blocks. Some things are inappropriate to wear and careful consideration for others should be taken when we dress to come together. *1Cor. 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*
- God deserves all the glory when we are assembled together and no one should be glorified for superficial reasons. We should be able to wear what we are blessed to wear, but never forget the reason why we are coming

together. Rom. 15:5-6 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary

There are no biblical passages that stipulate how one should dress when coming together for church services. The idea of dressing up for church derived from a misinterpretation of Genesis 35. In this passage, God told Jacob to dwell in Bethel. He said to honor God by getting rid of the strange gods, make yourselves pure, and change your garments. This passage was speaking of changing out of garments that had pagan ties to false gods. Many believe that when they come to Christ, they must dress up in new clothes or better clothes because of this passage. Although dressing up for church is a tradition, it is not a biblical mandate. And though we desire to look our best when we come together, we should check our motives to make sure we are not desiring to garner the attention of others. We must make sure that the inside is pure so that the outside may reflect it. When people dress to entice or get attention, then the motive of their heart is not pure. The whole purpose of the passage in Genesis was for Jacob to purify his family and live for God. So, if we desire to have a change of garment, then we must first have a change of heart. A pure heart will be reflected outwardly in the way we dress and the reasoning behind the clothing that we chose. We should never attempt to get attention in the place of worship but we should always, with a pure heart, give God all the glory when we come together.

James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

James 2:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

James 2:3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

James 2:4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs



of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

James 2:6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

James 2:7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.