

NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: newlifebplondon@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.co.uk

Preacher & Church Administrator: Mok Chee Cheong 07921 929515

"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

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LORD'S DAY 22 JULY 2007

My dear readers,

THOUGHTS ON APPAREL FOR BELIEVERS

1 Tim 2:9-10: *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."*

Introduction

As Christians grow in sanctification, they daily combat against the negative influences of this fallen world. **The fads and fashions of the world have an adverse influence on the Christian in the crucial area of apparel.** One of the factors which affects our impression of a person is in the way he/she attires himself/herself. This is quite natural to some extent, as our attire does tell to a certain extent what is in the inward part of a person's heart.

Testimony for Christ

The Christian has a spiritual obligation and privilege to dress as one befitting of a member of the family of God. In Isaiah 3, the prophet of old chided the Israelite women for wearing ostentatious jewellery and ornaments to attract man and that goes to exhibit their fleshly assets instead of the intangible but **important attributes of chastity, meekness and holiness.** In 1 Pet 3:3-4, Peter exhorts us that *"the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit is a great price in the sight of God."* It exhorts the women against unnecessary and elaborate adorning of oneself in the plaiting of hair, wearing of gold or putting on of elaborate apparel. This does not mean that we do not dress neatly and appropriately for work in the office or workplace. It means that we ought to manifest the true spirit of beauty not just outwardly but also inwardly. **It is the simple, edifying and moderate manner of Christian dressing that will also be a good testimony and witness to others, including the unbelievers.**

Holy living is reflected in how we dress, speak and carry ourselves as well. Eph 4:1 says *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."* While preparing and collating ideas...

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and materials for this article, I also interviewed a few people in the church to gather their opinions on the dressing of Christian youths today. An education officer shared with me that some teenage girls are wearing clothes with low-cut necklines and high-cut hemlines, both for School and Sunday worship services. A teenage student pointed out further that extremely long and distracting earrings should not be worn, as they are not consistent with simple, neat and undistracting dressing. He also shared that jeans and T-shirts at a worship service would be inconsistent with the reverent attitude of worshipping a thrice-holy Almighty Creator God. **The church service is not a fashion parade and we shall not be a distraction during worship services.** One pastor felt that people ought to be reminded that they should dress distinctly as men and women. It would not be appropriate for men to be adorned with things related to women such as earrings, necklaces and bracelets. **Nor is it right for believers to have tattoos on our bodies**, for Lev 19:28 says, “*Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.*”

Tips on Dressing

Conversely, it is also not right for a woman to be dressed in such a way that she could be mistaken for a man. How then shall we dress? Below are some suggestions:-

Firstly, the ladies. **The attire should not be provocative nor revealing in nature**, but appropriate for the occasion. A pastor once shared with me an interesting principle. He said that when Adam and Eve sinned, the fig leaves that they wore were used as temporary coverings for their shame. Hence, with less coverings, one would be exposing more shame. This indeed is an interesting food for thought. The sisters should be attired moderately and presentably to worship God on the Lord’s Day. All unduly elaborate dressing and accessories which would distract others or ourselves from the main objective of the reverential worship of God is to be discarded. Biblical worship should be in spirit that is to be discarded the and in truth (Jn 4:24), in the beauty of holiness (1 Chron 16:29) and in decency and order (1 Cor 13:33,40).

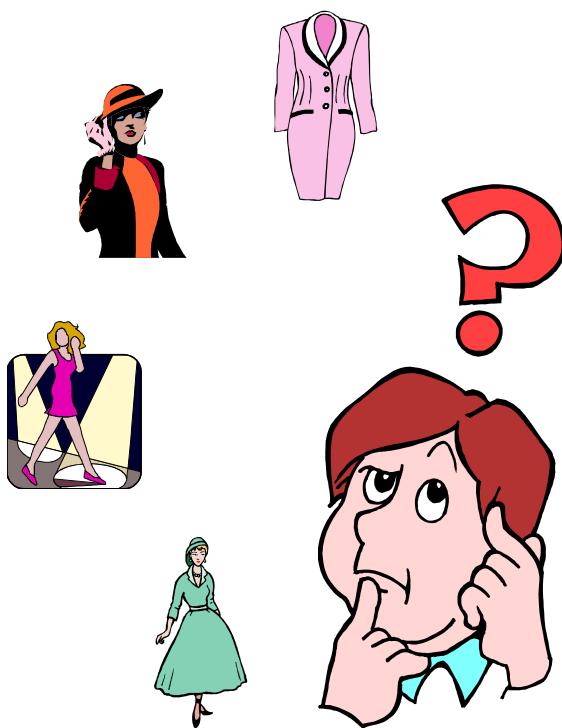
As for the brothers, one should not be too casual for worship service on the Lord’s Day nor be too flippant in the choice of shoes, pants or shirts. It is better to be conservative than to be seen as trendy and worldly in our propriety and decorum. A church member shared with me that her husband would always ensure that he wears a clean and fresh shirt (i.e., not one that has been worn during the week) and pants to church on Sundays as his Sunday best. We would not dress sloppily for an important occasion. The Lord’s Day is an important weekly appointment to have an awesome audience with the Kings of kings and Lord of lords and we honour Him when we dressed appropriately. It is advisable not to wear T-shirts, that advertise for secular movies, new age concepts nor any unedifying secular themes.

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Conclusion

In conclusion, the **Christian is to be the light to the world and the salt of the earth and accountable stewards before God one day.** 2 Cor 5:10 says “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*” We are to be fitting and worthy ambassadors of Christ on the earth. Matt 5:16 says “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*”

We are also instructed by the Apostle Paul in Rom 12:2 “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” We should therefore set godly standards for the world to follow and not vice versa. Let us strive to put on the new man and adorn ourselves as fitting representatives of Heaven where our Almighty God and loving Father is, to His glory and honour alone.



Angelina Sin
Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore
(Adapted from Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church)

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

CHURCH THEME: WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (*Romans 6:4*)

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm**.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME	
Morning	Today: 22/07/2007	Next Week: 29/07/2007	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We specially welcome Michael Hudson to our evening service last Lord's Day.	
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim		
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong		
<i>Message:</i>	The Christian's Two Citizenships	Motivation For Serving In Christ's Kingdom		
<i>Text:</i>	Eph 2:19, Rom 13:7	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10		
<i>Organist:</i>	Yanning	Anthony		
Evening			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	• Family Worship: This month's meeting is at Sis Wong Fung's home on 25 Jul 07 (Wed). Those interested to join us, please meet in church by 7:00 PM.	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong		
<i>Message:</i>	Identifying Truth From Error	He Fires Me To Action		
<i>Text:</i>	1 Corinthians 12:10	Romans 12:8		
<i>Pianist:</i>	Anthony	Feng Qian		
Other Duties				
	Today: 22/07/2007	Next Week: 29/07/2007		
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel/Joyce	John/Sharon		
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Yanning	Joyce		
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen		
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers		
<i>Bible Study:</i>	BBK	BBK		
Appointments of the Week				
Fri 27 Jul	7:30 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Join SGAT	• More Ushers Needed: We are short of ushers especially for the Evening Service. If you are interested, please see Jonathan Kim.	
Sat 28 Jul	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr: Pr Mok		
Last Week's Worship Service Collections				
Offering:	£344.00	Lunch:	£25.41	
Memory Verse				
<i>Previous Week (July 07 Wk 3): Titus 2:13-14</i>				
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.				
<i>This Week (July 07 Wk 4): Ephesians 2:8-10</i>				
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.				