

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

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## CASUAL DRESS

John Edwards

Perhaps you’ve seen the news reports where Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer directed the Senate’s sergeant-at-arms to stop enforcing its dress code. Now, instead of wearing the traditional coat and tie, one may wear gym shorts and a hoodie on the Senate floor.

On Wednesday, 46 Senators sent a letter to Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to reverse the new senate dress code rules:

*For more than 230 years, the United States Senate has served the American people with honor and dignity. As members of this esteemed body, we understand the seriousness our positions require.*

*The Senate is a place of honor and tradition, and the Senate floor is where we conduct the business of the American people. It is where we debate the policies which impact every American family and, when necessary, it is where we must make the gravest decision imaginable - whether to send our fellow Americans into battle to defend the freedoms we all hold dear. The world watches us on that floor and we must protect the sanctity of that place at all costs.*

*Allowing casual clothing on the Senate floor disrespects the institution we serve and the American families we represent. We the undersigned members of*

*the United States Senate write to express our supreme disappointment and resolute disapproval of your recent decision to abandon the Senate’s longstanding dress code for members, and urge you to immediately reverse this misguided action.*

Some things Senators have said about the relaxed dress code:

*The dress code changes are wrong and not wearing a suit and tie on the Senate floor degrades the chamber.*

*The Senate no longer enforcing a dress code for Senators...is disgraceful.*

*The change debases the institution.*

*We need to have standards when it comes to what we’re wearing on the floor of the Senate.*

*I am not going to change what I’m doing....you got to dress respectfully.*

*It’s about disrespecting the institution of the Senate created by the Constitution of the United States of America.*

*I represent the people of Kansas, and much like when I get dressed up to go to a wedding, it’s to honor the bride and groom, you go to a funeral you get dressed up to honor the family of the deceased. Senators should have a certain level of decorum.*

*This takes us to a place that is much less respectful than we historically have been.*

*Do you think judges should wear shorts and T-shirts when they’re sitting on the stand? No, because we want to show respect for the institution of the judiciary. Likewise, this is the government of the United States of America.*

*I think I’m pretty safe in saying most if not all Republican senators think we ought to dress up to go to work. So I can’t imagine that we’re going to be wearing jeans on the Senate floor anytime soon.*

Some things stand out from all of this. People of the world understand:

1. Dressing up reflects honor, dignity, seriousness, respect, and decorum.

2. Wearing shorts, t-shirts, hoodies, blue jeans and the like is not dressing up.

3. Casual clothing on the Senate floor disrespects the institution and the American families represented, is degrading and disgraceful.

Are “the children of this world ... wiser than the children of light” (Lk. 16:8)? Can we, as members of the body of Christ, learn something from all of this? Perhaps, we would do well to consider our attitude and mindset toward the divine institution, the church of the living God (Eph. 3:10-11; Mt. 16:18-19), purchased with the precious blood of Christ (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-19) and what we do in “the assembly of the saints” (Ps. 89:7).

## IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF GOD

Nicolas Edwards

There are many who teach we are saved by faith alone, without works. They would affirm that baptism is a work and thus cannot be required for salvation. If that is the case, faith must not be essential for salvation either for it is a work! (1 Th. 1:3). But, when told that baptism is essential for salvation, a member of the Baptist church suggested I am questioning God's grace and denying His power to save separate from my own works. When we suggest that works of obedience are required for salvation, we are not questioning God's grace or power! We are simply complying with His power to save (Rom. 1:16) as the gospel requires it (Acts 26:20; Phil. 2:12; Heb. 5:9; Jas. 2:20, 26)! To deny the connection between works and salvation is to deny God's power to save! Evidently, our works will have an impact on judgement day (Eccl. 12:14; Rom. 2:6). It's not a question of God's:

**POWER.** God is of great

power (Ps. 147:4-5). None can withstand Him (2 Chr. 20:6). There is not anything too hard for Him (Jer. 32:27). The gospel is God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). The question is: do you know the power of God (Mt. 22:29)? Do you believe it (Rom. 1:16-17)? You must be kept in it through faith (1 Pet. 1:5). Will you obey it (2 Th. 1:8)?

**GRACE.** *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men"* (Titus 2:11). God has done His part and it is up to us to do ours by accessing grace (Rom. 5:2), receiving it not in vain (2 Cor. 6:1), continuing in it (Acts 13:43) and not falling from it (Gal. 5:4).

**LOVE.** It is not a question of God's love for us (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:38-39; 1 Jn. 3:16; 4:9). It is up to us to love God (1 Jn. 5:3; Jn. 15:9-10; 2 Jn 6; 1 Jn. 2:3-5) and keep ourselves in the love of God (Jude 21)!

**MERCY.** God is *"plenteous in mercy"* (Ps. 86:15) and *"Rich in mercy"* (Eph. 2:4). We do not question God's mercy. It is *"God that sheweth mercy"* (Rom. 9:16). He has placed

conditions upon His mercy (Ex. 20:6; 1 Ki. 8:23; Ps. 32:10; 103:11; Prov. 14:22; 28:13; Is. 55:7; Heb. 4:16; Jude 21; Joel 2:12-13)! The question is: will you receive God's mercy by meeting the conditions?

**DESIRE.** We don't question God's desire for man to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)! Many will not be saved (Mt. 7:13-14). What is your desire (Col. 3:1-2; Heb. 11:16)?

**WORK.** We don't question the work of God. He has done His work (Ps. 78:7; Acts 2:11; Jn. 3:16)! It is up to us to do our work (Mt. 7:21; Phil. 2:12; 1 Tim. 4:16).

**FAITHFULNESS.** God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 1 Th. 5:24). The question is: are you (Mt. 25:21; Rev. 2:10)?

God offers mercy, grace, and salvation to all. But it is not unconditional! He has placed requirements upon it. One of those is obedience (Heb. 5:9). When we deny works of obedience, we deny salvation.

**\*\*\*GOSPEL MEETING\*\*\*  
with Ron Halbrook  
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