

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

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## YOU CAN'T WORK FAST FOOD DRESSED LIKE THAT!

*John Edwards*

Eating at a fast food restaurant recently, we observed how neatly dressed the workers were. Thinking about how some come dressed to participate in services of the Lord's church, it occurred to us, "You can't even work fast food dressed like that!" Getting dressed to go to work in the restaurant industry would be a step up for some. There are those who will come to services of the church in their blue jeans and t-shirts, ripped jeans, shorts and the like to worship and serve the Lord and yet they couldn't even work fast food dressed like that! Surely we can do better!

### THE CASE OF JOSEPH.

When Pharaoh sent and called Joseph out of the prison-dungeon, the record states, "he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh" (Gen. 41:14). Today, in the church, many seem to have adopted the notion, "just come as you are." Joseph didn't come before Pharaoh as he was! Evidently, he didn't deem that prison garb suitable attire when appearing before the Egyptian ruler. Yet, when we come together to worship the Lord we are appearing before One greater than Pharaoh!

### THE EXAMPLE OF DAVID.

When King David learned that the child born as a result of his sin of adultery with Bathsheba would die, "David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth" (2 Sam. 12:16). This went on for a week (v. 18). Upon hearing the news that the child was dead, the Bible says, "Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat" (v. 20). Notice that before David went into the house of the Lord, he washed, anointed himself and changed his apparel. He made himself presentable, when presenting himself to the Lord.

### THE WEDDING GARMENT.

In Matthew 22, the Lord told about a man who was a guest at a marriage a king made for his son "which had not on a wedding garment" (v. 11). Such was an insult to the king. When the king came in to see the guests and saw this man inappropriately dressed for such an occasion, "he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away,

and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen" (vv. 12-13). Do we not learn a lesson from this about the need to dress appropriately for the occasion? Would you go to a wedding dressed in what you wear for the services of the church?

**JUDGE AND KING.** How would you dress if you were to appear before a judge or a king? Have you considered the fact that when we come together in the church we are appearing before "the Judge of all the earth" (Gen. 18:25) and "the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14)?

**A REFLECTION.** Whether we realize it or not, our dress sends a message to others. It is said of Tamar, "she put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place" (Gen. 38:14). "When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot" (v. 15). There is certainly a difference between "the garments of widowhood" (Gen. 38:19) and "the attire of an harlot" (Prov. 7:10). What are we saying by the way we are dressed? Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he". Our dress is a reflection of the heart. Attitude is important!

What does a sloppy, unkempt appearance say about one's attitude? Often times casualness of dress is reflected in a casual, flippant, loose, and soft attitude toward the Lord and His word. All it would take to see an improvement in dress in most instances is an adjustment in people's attitudes.

**REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR.** Hebrews 12:28 points out that we "*serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*" The Psalmist exclaimed, "*God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him*" (Ps. 89:7). Does our attitude, our attire, our conduct, our demeanor, our speech and the like in the assembly of the saints exhibit great fear and reverence toward God? Or would God say, "*where is mine honour?*" and "*where is my fear?*" (Mal. 1:6). Psalm 111:9, "*holy and reverend is his name.*"

**THE BEST.** God deserves the best. He gave His best for us—His spotless, sinless Son (Jn. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:19; 2:22). God expects the best. Numbers 18 contains the principle of giving God the best. "*All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the first fruits of them which they shall offer unto the Lord*" (v. 12). The days of Malachi found the Lord's people offering the Lord less than their best. Did He accept such? "*And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts*" (Mal. 1:8). If they weren't going to do any better, they might as well shut the doors and go home (v. 10). Some show up to worship the Lord and lead the congregation who couldn't even work fast food dressed like that! There are some who will wear a suit in their secular work and come to

lead the congregation in song in blue jeans and a t-shirt! Are we giving better to our employer than to the Lord? When we have better and learn better, we need to do better.

**LEADERSHIP.** A group of people, generally, will do no better than their leadership! It is always a great concern that the Lord's people have proper leadership. One of Moses' last concerns was with respect to leadership of the Lord's people: "*Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd*" (Num. 27:16-17). Elders, as shepherds in the local church, must set the right example: "*being ensamples to the flock*" (1 Pet. 5:3). This includes being models for imitation as to appropriate dress. If the elders don't dress appropriately, how can anyone else be expected to do so? As those who "*have the rule*" (Heb. 13:17) and "*the oversight*" (1 Pet. 5:2), elders in the local church certainly have the right and the responsibility to see that those who lead in the services (make announcements, lead prayer, lead singing, serve at the Lord's table, teach and preach, read the Scriptures, extend the Lord's invitation) are dressed appropriately for such. Those standing before the congregation are in a leadership role, looked upon as an example, especially by the young, visitors and new converts. If men on the duty roster arrive inappropriately dressed for their duties, the elders may get a substitute to take their place. This would go a long way in solving the dress problem in most places.

**DRESS MATTERS TO GOD.** Some would try to persuade us that dress really doesn't matter to God. 1 Samuel 16:7—"*for*

*the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart*"—has been cited in defense of such a proposition. It's a misuse of that passage to say how one is dressed doesn't matter to God. That dress matters to God is a principle established from the beginning when God made "*coats of skins, and clothed*" Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21). Great attention and detail was given to "*the garments*" that were to be worn by the priests in their service unto the Lord (Ex. 28). 1 Timothy 2:9-10, "*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; But (which becometh women professing godliness with good works.*"

Some may suggest that we are binding a 'dress code'. No, we are simply calling men and women to the set of standards set forth within the Lord's word. When brethren say dress doesn't matter to God, and insist you can come as you are and allow folks to wear anything and everything, is that not a 'dress code'? With this being said, let's not be like those who "*outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within are full of hypocrisy and iniquity*" (Mt. 23:28). Jesus said, "*cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter; that the outside of them may be clean also*" (v. 26). Let's get it right inside and out!

**GOSPEL MEETING**

WITH

**RON HALBROOK**

**OCTOBER 10-16**

## WHAT DO YOU DELIGHT IN?

John Edwards

The word “*delight*” means to please very much. What type of things do you take pleasure in? What is it that gives you enjoyment, gratification, and happiness?

**LIES?** The Bible speaks of those who “*delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly*” (Ps. 62:4). There are some who would rather hear a lie than the truth (Is. 30:10). I need to be one who “*rejoiceth in the truth*” (1 Cor. 13:6). We should be happy and joyous when we hear the truth of God.

**WAR?** It gives some folks happiness when there is war and conflict between people. The Psalmist wrote, “*scatter thou the people that delight in war*” (Ps. 68:30). There are even those in the Lord’s church who are not content unless there is strife and division among God’s people. It should please us very much when there is unity and harmony in the body of Christ (Ps. 133:1-3).

**THE FROWARDNESS OF THE WICKED?** The wise man, Solomon, revealed that there are some “*Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked*” (Prov. 2:14). I need to know that to take pleasure in them that do wickedly is to be worthy of death (Rom. 1:32).

**THE LAW OF THE LORD?** The Psalmist said, “*I will delight myself in thy statutes*” (Ps. 119:16). Further, “*And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved*” (Ps. 119:47). Does the law of the Lord bring happiness to you? We ought to long to read and study the law of the Lord on a daily basis.

**THE ALMIGHTY GOD?** Solomon declared, “*I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart*” (Ps. 40:8). I need to have the attitude of the Psalmist when he said, “*Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight*” (Ps. 119:35). John revealed, “*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city*” (Rev.

22:14).

**SAINTS?** The Psalmist uttered, “*But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight*” (Ps. 16:3). It should please us very much and give us great happiness to be attached to and have friendship with the people of God. Too many delight in those of this world. James said, “*friendship of the world is enmity with God*” (Jas. 4:4). I should want to assemble with the saints regularly (Heb. 10:25).

What do you delight in?

***“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.”***

**—Titus 3:1-2**

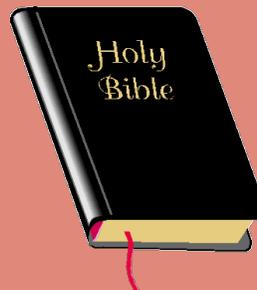
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### **Assembling At:**

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W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

### **Assembling Times:**

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



***We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.***

***Come be with us!***

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