



Why is a dress code necessary?

A dress code is designed to create the best opportunity possible for people to pursue God without needless distractions. These guidelines are not meant to be a legalistic set of rules that determine spiritual maturity but to help people fully focus on God while at church. While some of these guidelines may lie outside of one's personal convictions, as Christians we are called to set aside our own freedoms when necessary for the sake of helping others ([Romans 14](#)). This dress code is meant for anyone who publically represents our church on-stage during a service.

Guidelines for on-stage dress

- As a general rule of thumb: dress like you care about your appearance but are not consumed by it.
- We recommend rip-free blue or dark jeans, close-toed shoes or nice sandals, and emblem-free T-shirts or button up/collared shirts for men or blouses for women.
- Avoid revealing clothing including:
 - Sleeveless shirts with straps less than the width of three fingers
 - Backless blouses
 - Shirts that expose the midriff area
 - Leggings without shirts that cover to at least mid-thigh
 - Skirts that don't reach the knee
- Avoid flashy or distracting clothes/hats/shoes. Don't be a distraction.
- Avoid shorts except for special occasions (ex. Summer picnic)
- Avoid clothing with large words or statements printed on them.
- Avoid old T-shirts, frayed or torn pants, or tank/tube tops.
- Avoid sloppy footwear like worn flip flops or tattered shoes. Think sharp!

Appearance does matter

The Bible says that people look at the outward appearance but that God looks at the heart ([1 Samuel 16:7](#)). While that it is true that God looks at the heart, it is also true that people look at the outward appearance. The way we dress and present ourselves certainly does not determine our value to God or our worth as an individual but it does affect the way that people view us. Because of this, it impacts our ability to reach people effectively both in worship ministry and in how we lead them to know God. If people see us as sloppy and disorganized, they will likely see the God we serve in the same light and may not want to pursue Him further. If we present ourselves well and with excellence, people will see the God we serve as an excellent God and may be more likely to pursue Him. Our job is not to make people pursue God, but to represent Him well and help make the idea as appealing as possible by how we present ourselves to them, both in attitude, action, and appearance.