

From the Pastor

The fashion industry is one of the largest money makers in the world. From jeans to diamonds and pearls, your fashion is your statement. Your dress is your address. Style is a statement about who you are and what you stand for, a form of visual and tangible identity that flags the viewer to a specific image you want to create, the way you want to be “viewed” and seen in the world.

Your clothing is your credo.

What you wear on the outside is an indicator of the identity you claim on the inside. As actions reveal motives, so too does your fashion reveal your feelings, your motif, your intentions, your personality, your affiliations, your deeply seeded values and even your faith.

Wearing clothing is an art, and art is a window into the soul. Your clothing can be the cross you wear, or a tattoo you bear, the jewelry and accessories you choose, the hairstyle you comb, the glasses you see through. Even the absence of clothing or accessories makes a statement about who you are and what means something ... (or not)...to you.

Your outward appearance, the “art” of imagining through clothing, is a direct reflection of your inner spirit. Your clothes you could say is the “image” of your spirit, the “fruit” of your roots.

When you make a “fashion” statement, you also make a “spirit statement.” Your spirit statement is your true “statement of faith” --in what or whom you put your faith. Your clothing reveals how you live out your faith in the world “for real.”

Jesus once told his newly formed apostles that they should “stay in the city until they have been clothed with power from on high.”

The clothing we choose reveals the person we are. The clothing we allow God to choose for us, reveals the faith we have and our ability to submit our hearts to “fit” God’s mission and ministry.

When we allow God to clothe us with grace and wisdom and love, we become truly immersed within God’s Spirit of love and mercy, healing and goodness. We not only

change internally, we also change externally, for when people look at us, they see the presence of God all around us and within us! Our actions, the way we behave, will spring from the way we are “clothed.”

When you go on a hike or climbing up and down the hills and valleys, you don’t go barefoot and in speedos and bikinis. You put on protective clothing: hiking boots, hat, warm vest.

When you work on a building or construction site, you wear steel-tipped shoes, protective eye mask, hard hat, and gloves.

You don’t run naked into a fire. But if there are people to be saved, you put on a protective suit, you take a risk, and you run straight head-on into that fire, knowing that your clothing will protect you, so that you can save others.

We are God’s fire fighters and lifeguards. We are people on a saving mission that sometimes means that we have to take some risks, walking into the fire, water, wind and waves.

My family in the faith, we need to give God our hands and feet, our mouths and voices, our bodies... our very spirits, and God will clothe us in ways that will change the way people see us and change the way we do ministry.

May God Bless You All!

Pastor Fogle