

## **Harvest Bible Chapel Stage Dress: From Code to Philosophy**

In the past, we have relied on a very specific code of dress for every stage participant. At various times, this included:

- khakis for men, pressed with a front crease ironed in the leg;
- button-down collared shirts, tucked into pants;
- jewel colored clothing for women;
- specific knee and neck lines for all women's clothing;
- no leather or denim.

Lately, we have been wrestling anew with the issues of stage dress and propose a movement from dress code to dress philosophy. We want to move from a rigid, specified list of don'ts to a more holistic approach where different people

### **1. Since we are a worship ministry, we will dress in ways that brings attention to God, and not to ourselves.**

- We will avoid clothes that are dirty, sloppy, or "loud".
- We will avoid extravagant displays of material gain.
- We avoid everything that accentuates or reveals what could be sexually alluring.
- We will dress respectfully, recognizing that we have a serious job to do.

### **2. Since we are a diverse ministry, we will dress in ways that welcome the rich spectrum of people that attend our church.**

- There is (praise God) wide economic, racial, and age diversity in our church.
- The incarnation of Christ is a call to our church to reach people where they are. We want people to look at our platform and say: "These people are like me." Therefore, within the participants on stage, a wide spectrum of wardrobe should be worn.
- The larger our church gets, the larger the temptation becomes to make uniformity our default answer. Diversity must be embraced and celebrated for the flourishing of the different gifts God has given our church.

### **3. Since we are a gospel ministry, we will not communicate that any certain style of dress indicates godliness.**

- *For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? (James 2:1-4)*

Some members of our team are seen in a more visible role of leadership (soloists, worship leaders, church employees), and will be expected to adhere to this more closely. We recognize the increased subjectivity in these guidelines. We expect that every stage participant receive input with humility, as servants of Jesus Christ.

This new philosophy of dress will grant us the flexibility to minister to the increasingly diverse group of people that call Harvest Bible Chapel their church home. Fleshing this out will be an ongoing process, not a once for all discovery.