

Faith and Fashion

FASHION AS AN EMBODIED SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

"You shall make sacred vestments for the glorious adornment of your brother Aaron. And you shall speak to all who have ability, whom I have endowed with skill, that they make Aaron's vestments to consecrate him for my priesthood. These are the vestments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a checkered tunic, a turban, and a sash. When they make these sacred vestments for your brother Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests, they shall use gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and fine linen."

-Exodus 28:2-5

"David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as also were all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the leader of the music of the singers; and David wore a linen ephod. So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres."

-1 Chronicles 15:27-28

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

-1 Corinthians 6:19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on these verses, how do you see getting dressed and clothing as a spiritual discipline?
2. What is one thing you can incorporate into your daily routine that can help you practice getting dressed as a spiritual discipline?

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FASHION AS LAMENT, REPENTANCE, AND PROTEST

"So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel; and seventy thousand persons fell in Israel. And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but when he was about to destroy it, the Lord took note and relented concerning the calamity; he said to the destroying angel, "Enough! Stay your hand." The angel of the Lord was then standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. David looked up and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces."

-1 Chronicles 21:14-16

"When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes."

-Esther 4:1-3

"In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins."

-Matthew 3: 1-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on these verses, how do you see getting dressed and clothing as a form of lament, repentance, and protest?
2. What are some current examples where you have seen fashion and clothing be used as a form of lament, repentance, and protest?
3. What is one way that you can incorporate fashion and clothing into how you practice justice and/or protest injustice?