

I have been asked, "Why have you joined a cult?" and have heard the comment that "the specific dress code makes this a cult." This letter is my answer to these comments.

According to the [encyclopedia](#) (Wikipedia), a cult is a group formed for religious or political practices and beliefs (this includes Christians, Christianity, and Churches). So, in this context, Yes, I am in a "cult"...so are millions of others around the world. It's called the "cult" of Christ. But, because we do not believe the liberal "mainstream" or "popular" stances, of "churchianity" (rather a very conservative, literal interpretation of the Holy Bible), we have been classified as a cult, in modern context, by some.

In modern day thought, cults have received a negative connotation. They are perceived as groups who practice specific, non-Biblical customs. Who follow an actual person, either living or dead, and what that person says to do, or who call themselves "prophets", or Christs. Who dress in a specific cloth or color, or only eat certain things, or live communally, or perform non-Biblical rituals.

To answer this latter paragraph... We believe in a very literal, conservative interpretation of God's inspired word, the Holy Bible, in it's entirety. We do not follow the teachings of any man (save for God and Jesus Christ). According to Mat 28:20, we strive to keep all the commandments that Christ gave us without question. IF we look toward the writings and teachings of others to understand the history and culture of that time, we do so, that we may have a clearer understanding of how the scriptures were understood...back then. Then we try to live according to how they would have lived. So in short, we follow the Bible, not a man.

The clothing is based on an inspired guideline, described in the Bible (1 Tim 2:9, and elsewhere). The "guideline" is more of a set of standards that allow several choices, but suggests refraining from others, due to issues with pride. The following text is from Book 8 of the doctrinal series for [Living Faith Christian Fellowship](#): "We are striving to be a peculiar people, zealous of good works and perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Life in a true church is not understood by the carnal. Ladies in our society have much to change to get in line with apostolic Christianity, and may be tempted to stop short of victory by comparing themselves with modern standards, or following their feelings. Ladies, please beware having a grumbling, murmuring spirit if your husband leads your family this way - this is very grievous to God's Spirit (I Cor. 10:10). Diligently resist this "missing the leeks and garlies of Egypt" attitude - it is poison to the youth especially. Discontent wives are poison to their husband's spiritual fervor. People who come out of our affluent society to a plain, humble walk of life, are not having to be as radical as the Jews who became Christians, Romans who became Christians, Catholics who became Ana-baptists, Communists or Islamics turned Christians in the past or today. God forbid that we should murmur about our lessor crucifixion of the earthly affections and lusts. We are teaching nothing new- these standards are common through the history of God's people.

Primarily we ask the fathers and husbands to police the dress in their home, and determine what is most practical and useful within the bounds of godliness. We ministers will approach the fathers and husbands if we see a problem. We hope that

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you will determine in your heart to be humble and cooperative should this arise - Ultimately God will hold the bishops responsible for the church and expects them to keep it in order. This is God's way, not man's. We would only be concerned if we saw something we considered "leaven" and dangerous to the whole body if continued. PLEASE COMMUNICATE IF THERE IS A PROBLEM - DON'T ASSUME WE WILL BE UNCOOPERATIVE.

The following is what the bishop believes to be a safe and wise course, and what he teaches his family. In a close working fellowship, extra carefulness is in order, especially to protect the purity of our youth. We encourage our fathers to seek God for the leadership of their own homes.

I recommend the sister's dress is to follow the pattern of the "modest Katastole", with a long (at least to mid-calf), full (loose), plain dress (or skirt/blouse) and a loose vest, smock or apron, which provides the "double covering" and avoids the "drawn in" waistline. Jumpers, when made properly, can be modest also.

I recommend Sleeves should be at least to the elbow and loose fitting; but drawn in at the cuff to avoid immodesty. No lace, ruffles, ribbons, or fancy collars. Dresses should have a simple collar to avoid too large neck openings. As already stated in book #7, we encourage our ladies to make their clothes when possible, rather than buy them. It will be rare that clothes purchased will be a safe pattern or meet the criteria herein. **Snug clothes are not modest.**

No jewelry or costly array of any type is to be worn. Plain, solid, opaque fabric is a safe choice for the dresses. Prints should be used with great caution. **Simple, subdued, humble, modest, and not too "busy"** printed fabric can be practical to hide stains; but others can become a form of ornamentation - it should be chosen with mortified earthly affections. The mother who desires to "dress up" herself or vainly dresses up her little girl for show is not following Jesus with a single motive and pure heart.

Fabric should not cling to the form, but have some "stiffness" or "body" of its own. Slips should be worn under dresses to protect when standing by a glass door or with light behind you. Bright and contrasting colors are not modest (humble and shamefaced), nor are rich colors of royalty, such as most shades of purple or red. We encourage simple colors that won't stand out in a crowd. Shoes should be simple and plain. No sheer hose is allowed, but opaque socks or hose to be worn in church meetings. No make-up or perfumes should be used, nor any other device for drawing attention to one's self. Sobriety, shamefacedness, a meek and quiet spirit, and chastity is God's idea of beauty. This spirit of modesty should prevail throughout the sister's activities, thus prohibiting participation in sports, entertainment, jesting, flirting, etc.

The head should be veiled with a hanging veil of plain solid material (no prints); that covers the hair (if you choose to wear your hair down) and the back of the neck (if you wear it up in a "bun"), according to the practice of the early church and the Greek word for covering, Katakalypto.”

So, are we following a man? No. We are simply trying our best to follow God's commands and be as humble and modest as possible according to the first century standards and understanding.