

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

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EP54

The Leaders Dress Code:

Why a Leader Should be Clothed with Christ

FOR THE GROUP LEADER

These notes have been designed to disciple leaders in round the table small group discussions.

What is in *ITALICS* is meant to be read out loud.

Welcome to this week's Mustard Seed Leadership discussion. The current series is "The Leaders Dress Code"

STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is "Why a Leader Should be Clothed with Christ" But before we start on the new topic, we will

usually hold each other accountable about last week's action step.

Since this is the first in the series, let's go straight to the notes.

STEP #2: READ THE NOTES

Option 1: Let each person in the group take turns reading a section. (Each section is marked with a **READER #**). Go clockwise starting with the Group Leader, and highlight or underline what catches your attention.

Option 2: The leader reads all the sections.

Option 3: Watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/smlaZ9LN2tQ>

READER 1

THE LEADERS DRESS CODE

As a marriage officer doing a wedding, I always ask the couple when we are planning the wedding - what do I need to wear?

- I don't like dressing up but want to be appropriately dressed for the occasion

As leaders the Bible instructs us to be appropriately dressed for leadership

Romans 13:14 (NIV) "... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Here is Paul's reasoning:

Romans 13:12-14 (NIV)

12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

To clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ is to put on the armour of light

- *In other words, there is a protection factor to the clothing of Christ*
- *It is a leader's personal body armour!*

READER 2

Without the clothing of Christ a leader leaves themselves vulnerable to:

- 1. Lack of self control - addictions “carousing and drunkenness”**
- 2. Lack of sexual control - “sexual immorality and debauchery”**
- 3. Lack of emotional control - “dissension and jealousy”**

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul further describes this clothing of Christ

- What we see is that the clothes of Christ
- Are the character traits of Christ

Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV)

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion,

kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

READER 3

Nine characteristics of Christ's clothing for leadership:

- 1. Compassion***
- 2. Kindness***
- 3. Humility***
- 4. Gentleness***
- 5. Patience***
- 6. Forgiveness***
- 7. Love***
- 8. Inner peace***
- 9. Gratitude***

Over the next 9 weeks we will discuss each of these from a leadership perspective

Today I want to start with the WHY - why should we as Christ follower leaders, clothe ourselves with Christ?

READER 4

WHY A LEADER SHOULD BE CLOTHED WITH CHRIST

1. BECAUSE Christlike character is our PROTECTION

2. BECAUSE We are CHOSEN

Illust: Remember being chosen for a district soccer team when I was about 10 years old

- only one in my school*
- I got to wear this special soccer kit*
- I thought I was so special*
- That soccer kit made a statement*
- I was chosen to represent the district!*

There is a special kit that goes with being chosen to represent Jesus as a leader

- *Never forget that*
- *We didn't earn this privilege*
- *We don't deserve it*
- *But let the kit of Jesus set us apart!*

READER 5

3. BECAUSE We are HOLY

This HOLINESS is a gift from God made available through the Cross

- *It is an imparted holiness, not earned*
- *But now it is because we are holy that we learn to live holy lives*

Illust: Lived next to the beach most of my life

- *Because of that I learnt to body surf the waves*
- *It's not because I learnt to body surf that I got to live by the beach*
- *It's because I live by the beach that I got to body surf*

We didn't earn holiness because we walked holy

- *It is because we are holy that we learn to walk holy*
- *Jesus' blood made us holy*
- *Now we get to walk in the beauty of that holiness*

4. BECAUSE We are DEARLY LOVED

We will discover over the next few weeks that all of Christ's clothing is about loving others

What I have discovered over the past few years is that we simply reflect the revelation we have of God.

The Bible says: 1 John 4:19 (NIV) *"We love because he first loved us."*

In other words we can only love dearly when we realise we are dearly loved.

CHALLENGE:

Ask yourself this question - are you appropriately dressed as a leader?

Does your character reflect:

- 1. The armour of light?***
- 2. That you are chosen to represent Christ?***
- 3. The holiness you have been given?***
- 4. How deeply God loves you?***

Let's take the next few weeks to fill our wardrobes with the clothing of Christ.

STEP #3: SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

*Now let's go around the group and take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. **What stood out to you and why?***

STEP #4: EVALUATION

*I am going to ask each of you in turn to evaluate yourself (From a 5 which is **EXCELLENT**, down*

to a 1 meaning **LOTS OF WORK NEEDED!**) on how well you are doing in the area of this topic and then share this with the group and why you chose this score.

STEP #5: Application

Lastly, let's go around the group and answer the following questions:

Does your character reflect:

- 1. The armour of light?***
- 2. That you are chosen to represent Christ?***
- 3. The holiness you have been given?***
- 4. How deeply God loves you?***

CLOSING

A great way to close off is to pair up briefly for a moment of prayer. Pray for each other that you will succeed in your action steps. Thank

everyone for coming and committing to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

