

# Dress Code - Men

## Introduction

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*He gave me reason to sing a new song, Praising our God. (Psalm 40:3)*

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The NET commentary says of this line in Psalm 40, "A new song was appropriate because the Lord had intervened in the psalmist's experience in a fresh and exciting way"

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## Three Gateways

The people who visit our church are not able to look inside us and see the things that God is doing, instead they will see them through these "gateways":

1. **Faces** - They will see our bright clear countenance. Our smiling lips/eyes will shine the light that is in us.
2. **Grooming** - They will see the way that we care for our body. Our hair and cleanliness will show that we see ourselves as valuable, loved and accepted by God.
3. **Clothes** - They will see what we wear and it will show that we are pure, that we value being at church, and that God's work is relevant to our time and location.

When people come to our church the first communication they receive is the impression Team Breakthrough makes on them. The message they should hear is: *"These people are from my community - they have life - and I am drawn to that life."* Let us ensure that we don't share another message through our gateways. We don't want visitors to hear the message: *"These people are from another time/era - they are not part of my world. They are worried/angry/sad - I do not want to experience the troubles and problems that I see in their faces".*

## Speaking Clearly Through the Gateways

So, we exhort you to speak clearly using the gateways:

1. **FACE/EYES** - Guard your heart. Never let your service become something that you are just "going through the motions". Keep your relationship with Jesus fresh and vital.
2. **GROOMING** - Care for your body as the "tent" that carries the life of God. Be clean and well kept. Smell good. Wear deodorant (if not for your sake - for all the others on Team Breakthrough's sake). We suggest that you don't have hair styles that cover your face - let people see the light of God in your eyes.
3. **CLOTHES** - Be fresh and current. Choose clothes that are modest and reflect your purity as well as support the desire for purity in the congregation. Dress neatly and in a way that shows that you place a high value on ministering in the house of God and love excellence. Wear modern, fashionable clothes that show that God is not just working in the 70's but in you "today."

The bottom line is to consider these gateways when choosing your clothes etc. We are pretty confident that if you come to church with the love of God burning in your heart and a passion to serve others, and that you have chosen clothes to reflect that, then you are 99% of the way there. What we don't want is someone who gives no thought to the privilege of serving in God's house and comes looking like they've just rolled out of bed.

**NOTE:** Our aim is not to be "on the borderline" but safely in the modest zone. We want people to be captivated by your bright smile, not distracted by your revealing, skin-tight clothing. We ask for your cooperation in this as we don't want to make a huge list of what is and isn't acceptable. We don't want to descend into discussions on what's "too short", or what's "too see-through" etc. Please make it your aim to represent the purity that Jesus has worked in your life by choosing clothes that are modest. Our heart is not to be controlling or to adopt the dress standard of the Amish community, but to ensure that our desire for moral purity clearly shines through all we do.

However, because clothes are such a personal thing with so much variety, we will try and give some guidelines. I appreciate that sometimes our boundaries or definitions may vary with yours, but in the interest of providing a unified standard across all our volunteers and worship team on the stage, we ask you to submit to our requests.

## On Stage vs Off Stage

So why are some rules different on stage VS off stage?

This is because once on stage there is a new level of visibility and focus on the people. So for the following reasons, our on-stage dress code is slightly different:

- The stage is a focal point. Ultimately we want people's attention pointed to Jesus, but there is still a point of focus to those on stage. We therefore want to present an image that represents our heart (we are RELEVANT, we are PURE, we put VALUE on being here)
- On stage also means you are elevated, and therefore people will be looking up towards you - this increases the risk of being able to see up shirts/shorts.
- The stage is also heavily lit, so lights can be shining through clothing making it see-through.
- Ultimately our aim is to also lead people in uninhibited, exuberant praise for our Jesus! This means we want to ensure our music team and speakers are free to jump, to dance, to run and to freely praise.

## A Summary of What CAN be Worn

✓	✗
<p>Smart, modern, modest, casual</p> <p><i>Wear clothes that you consider to be nice - that you would be happy to go out to a nice restaurant in, and show you VALUE what you are doing.</i></p>	<p>Relax around the home clothes</p> <p>Do the garden clothes</p> <p>Beach clothes</p> <p>Unwashed/unkept/stained/torn/old clothes</p> <p>Super-tight, body hugging clothes</p> <p>Your favourite double-breasted suit from the 80's (though hang onto it - it may be fashionable again in 10 years time).</p> <p>Clothes showing off large amounts of skin</p>
<p>Designer rips in jeans are okay</p>	<p>Over-the-top rips or rips that are immodest. As a general rule, don't wear jeans that look like they are falling apart, have large rips or rips that reveal a lot of skin or any underwear.</p>
<p>Long Shorts/Long Pant (** Note: if on-stage please wear long pants)</p>	<p>Short shorts</p> <p>Gym shorts</p>
<p>Singlets that are smart and modest</p>	<p>Avoid singlets that are revealing (either low neck or under arms), and making skin underneath the singlet easily visible.</p>
<p>T-shirts/Shirts/Long-Sleeve tops</p> <p>When serving on the following teams, please wear your Breakthrough T-Shirt: Welcome, Café, SuperKid/Ablaze, Breakfast Club/Bridge Events - or whenever asked by your leader!</p> <p><i>* Please note in colder weather it is perfectly acceptable to wear vests/jackets over your t-shirt. In such cases please ensure you are wearing your lanyard, to still be easily identified.</i></p>	<p>For those not wearing Breakthrough t-shirts, don't wear a shirt with a provocative slogan or picture that will offend or distract people (you may want to leave the t-shirt with the image of the skull with a snake coming out of the eye in the drawer on Sunday mornings).</p> <p>Be particularly careful when you are on stage. Sometimes a perfectly modest top can end up showing a little too much once on stage due to the elevated platform, lights or people moving around lots. If necessary, tuck loose tops in or wear a higher necked or longer shirt than usual.</p>

## Final Note

Remember that you represent the whole of Team Breakthrough, the church and ultimately Jesus when you serve. As a rule please don't wear things which will make your pastor blush or will cause people to be distracted from their entering in to the service - but let everything you wear and do bring much pleasure to God.

# Dress Code - Women

## Introduction

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*He gave me reason to sing a new song, Praising our God. (Psalm 40:3)*

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The NET commentary says of this line in Psalm 40, “A new song was appropriate because the Lord had intervened in the psalmist’s experience in a fresh and exciting way”

When we serve through our different roles in Team Breakthrough, we do not simply perform our tasks out of a sense of duty, but we serve out of the overflow of God working in our lives. For example, the music team not only brings timeless, proven worship to the Lord – but also fresh, new worship inspired by what God is doing in their lives right now.

It is our vision that as Team Breakthrough serves, that the “fresh” work that God is performing in their hearts will be seen by those we serve.

## Three Gateways

The people who visit our church are not able to look inside us and see the things that God is doing, instead they will see them through these “gateways”:

1. **Faces** – They will see our bright clear countenance. Our smiling lips/eyes will shine the light that is in us.
2. **Grooming** – They will see the way that we care for our body. Our hair and cleanliness will show that we see ourselves as valuable, loved and accepted by God.
3. **Clothes** – They will see what we wear and it will show that we are pure, that we value being at church, and that God’s work is relevant to our time and location.

When people come to our church the first communication they receive is the impression Team Breakthrough makes on them. The message they should hear is: *“These people are from my community – they have life – and I am drawn to that life.”* Let us ensure that we don’t share another message through our gateways. We don’t want visitors to hear the message: *“These people are from another time/era – they are not part of my world. They are worried/angry/sad – I do not want to experience the troubles and problems that I see in their faces”.*

## Speaking Clearly Through the Gateways

So, we exhort you to speak clearly using the gateways:

1. **FACE/EYES** – Guard your heart. Never let your service become something that you are just “going through the motions”. Keep your relationship with Jesus fresh and vital.
2. **GROOMING** – Care for your body as the “tent” that carries the life of God. Be clean and well kept. Smell good. Wear deodorant (if not for your sake – for all the others on Team Breakthrough’s sake). We suggest that you don’t have hair styles that cover your face – let people see the light of God in your eyes. Feel free to wear makeup – but do so in a way that enhances the beauty of God in you 😊

- 3. CLOTHES** – Be fresh and current. Choose clothes that are modest and reflect your purity as well as support the desire for purity in the congregation. Dress neatly and in a way that shows that you place a high value on ministering in the house of God and love excellence. Wear modern, fashionable clothes that show that God is not just working in the 70's but in you "today."

The bottom line is to consider these gateways when choosing your clothes etc. We are pretty confident that if you come to church with the love of God burning in your heart and a passion to serve others, and that you have chosen clothes to reflect that, then you are 99% of the way there. What we don't want is someone who gives no thought to the privilege of serving in God's house and comes looking like they've just rolled out of bed.

**NOTE:** Our aim is not to be "on the borderline" but safely in the modest zone. We want people to be captivated by your bright smile, not distracted by your revealing, skin-tight clothing. We ask for your cooperation in this as we don't want to make a huge list of what is and isn't acceptable. We don't want to descend into discussions on what's "too short", or what's "too see-through" etc. Please make it your aim to represent the purity that Jesus has worked in your life by choosing clothes that are modest. If you are unsure about a certain item of clothing and are thinking, "I'm not sure if the others on Team Breakthrough would think this top is a bit risqué" then we're suggesting that you lean to the safe side by either wear something underneath or picking another top. Our heart is not to be controlling or to adopt the dress standard of the Amish community, but to ensure that our desire for moral purity clearly shines through all we do. At Breakthrough we also want to go "above and beyond". We don't want to walk as close to the line as possible, but be well above what is appropriate. There are plenty of clothes that might be great and perfectly fine to wear out to a personal, social outing – but we don't wear them when we are representing Team Breakthrough, just because we have purposely set the "boundary line" far away from anything that could detract from our purpose, or become a distraction.

However, because clothes are such a personal thing with so much variety, we will try and give some guidelines. I appreciate that sometimes our boundaries or definitions may vary with yours, but in the interest of providing a unified standard across all our volunteers and music team on the stage, we ask you to submit to our requests.

## On Stage vs Off Stage

We have created two lists: ON STAGE vs OFF STAGE.

This is because once on stage there is a new level of visibility and focus on the people. So for the following reasons, our on-stage dress code is slightly different:

- The stage is a focal point. Ultimately we want people's attention pointed to Jesus, but there is still a point of focus to those on stage. We therefore want to present an image that represents our heart (we are RELEVANT, we are PURE, we put VALUE on being here)
- On stage also means you are elevated, and therefore people will be looking up towards you – this increases the risk of being able to see up shirts, shorts and skirts.
- The stage is also heavily lit, so lights can be shining through clothing making it see-through.
- Ultimately our aim is to also lead people in uninhibited, exuberant praise for our Jesus! This means we want to ensure our music team and speakers are free to jump, to dance, to run and to freely praise.

## A Summary of What CAN be Worn - OFF STAGE

✓	✗
<p>Smart, modern, modest, casual</p> <p><i>Wear clothes that you consider to be nice - that you would be happy to go out to a nice restaurant in, and show you VALUE what you are doing.</i></p>	<p>Relax around the home clothes</p> <p>Do the garden clothes</p> <p>Beach clothes</p> <p>Unwashed/unkept/stained/torn/old clothes</p> <p>Super-tight, body hugging clothes</p> <p>Your favourite dress suit from the 80's (though hang onto it - it may be fashionable again in 10 years time).</p>
<b>Dresses/Skirts</b>	
<p>Dresses/Skirts that are below the knee</p>	<p>Please avoid skirts that are on or above the knee, and skin-tight and outline every curve &amp; bump (we don't need to see everything!!)</p> <p>Also be aware (particularly on windy days) how easily your skirt can fly up, creating all sorts of awkward encounters! Also skirts can become see-through in different light scenarios. If in doubt, just pop on a pair of leggings or tights.</p>
<b>The top half</b>	
<p>When serving on the following teams, please wear your Breakthrough T-Shirt: Welcome, Café, SuperKid/Ablaze, Breakfast Club/Bridge Events - or whenever asked by your leader!</p> <p><i>* Please note in colder weather it is perfectly acceptable to wear vests/jackets over your t-shirt. In such cases please ensure you are wearing your lanyard, to still be easily identified.</i></p>	<p>For those not wearing Breakthrough t-shirts, don't wear a shirt with a provocative slogan or picture that will offend or distract people (you may want to leave the t-shirt with the image of the skull with a snake coming out of the eye in the drawer on Sunday mornings).</p> <p>See-through tops - if it's sheer or see-through, pop on a singlet underneath!</p> <p>Revealing tops (no tops that have low necks, show midriff, or reveal underwear). If in doubt, wear a singlet underneath</p> <p>Super skin-tight tops, or tops that are particularly drawing focus to/pronouncing your chest</p>
<p>Sleeveless tops that are smart and modest</p>	<p>Avoid sleeveless tops that are revealing (either low neck or under arms). No spaghetti straps, off-the-shoulder or strapless tops. No underwear should be seen (including straps &amp; sides).</p>
<b>The bottom half</b>	
<p>Mid-thigh length shorts</p> <p>Long Pants</p>	<p>Short shorts. And the ten million dollar question: How short is too short? Our guideline is that they should be at least mid-thigh (ie. the shorts should be closer to the knee than the top of your thigh.) We do recognize that this is not the current trend in fashion and that it isn't easy to find decent length shorts in the shops but we would appreciate you using all your super-shopping skills in hunting them down.</p>
<p>Designer rips in jeans are okay</p>	<p>Over-the-top rips or rips that are immodest. As a general rule, don't wear jeans that look like they are falling apart, have large rips or rips that reveal a lot of skin or any underwear.</p>
<p>Thick Leggings (with a long top that covers all the bits!!)</p>	<p>Leggings with a short top. Please ensure when wearing leggings that all body parts (front &amp; back) are comfortably covered ☺</p> <p><i>*Thick leggings refers full material leggings - tights or see through material are not suitable.</i></p>

## A Summary of What CAN be Worn - ON STAGE

✓	✗
<p>Smart, modern, modest, casual  <i>Wear clothes that you consider to be nice - that you would be happy to go out to a restaurant in, show you VALUE what you are doing.</i></p>	<p>Relax around the home clothes            Do the garden clothes            Beach clothes            Unwashed/unkept/stained/torn/old clothes            Super-tight, body hugging clothes            Your favourite dress suit from the 80's (though hang onto it - it may be fashionable again in 10 years time).</p>
<b>Dresses/Skirts</b>	
<p>Dresses/Skirts that are ankle length            Otherwise any length dress/skirt with thick leggings underneath</p>	<p>To help us with our ability for uninhibited praise, and being aware of the potential difference an elevated stage makes please wear leggings under any dress that is not ankle length.            Please also avoid skirts that are skin-tight and outline every curve &amp; bump (we don't need to see everything!!)            Be very mindful of lighting behind you, so if there is a chance your perfectly modest dress might become see-through on stage, just pop on some leggings or wear a petticoat.</p>
<b>Top Half</b>	
<p>Sleeve-less that are smart and modest</p>	<p>Avoid sleeveless tops that are revealing (either low neck or under arms). No spaghetti straps, off-the-shoulder or strapless tops. No mid-riff showing. No underwear should be seen (including straps &amp; sides).</p>
<p>T-shirts, Shirts, Blazers, Long-sleeve tops, jumpers, jackets...and beyond!</p>	<p>Don't wear a shirt with a provocative slogan or picture that will offend or distract people (you may want to leave the t-shirt with the image of the skull with a snake coming out of the eye in the drawer on Sunday mornings).            See-through tops - if it's sheer or see-through, pop on a singlet underneath!            Revealing tops (no tops that have low necks, show mid-riff, or reveal underwear). If in doubt, wear a singlet underneath            Super skin-tight tops, or tops that are particularly drawing focus to/pronouncing your chest</p>
<b>The bottom half</b>	
<p>Long Pants            Thick Leggings (with a long top that covers all the bits!!)            Designer rips in jeans are okay</p>	<p>Shorts            Leggings with a short top. Please ensure when wearing leggings that all body parts (front &amp; back) are comfortably covered ☺            Over-the-top rips or rips that are immodest. As a general rule, don't wear jeans that look like they are falling apart, have large rips or rips that reveal a lot of skin or any underwear.</p>

## Final Note

Remember that you represent the whole of Team Breakthrough, the church and ultimately Jesus when you serve. As a rule please don't wear things which will make your pastor blush or will cause people to be distracted from their entering in to the service - but let everything you wear and do bring much pleasure to God.