

Immerse Day 33 :: March 17

Her name was Eunice, and she was, well, interesting. She loved men's beards, and never hesitated from running her fingers through the beard of any man she saw, friend or stranger... or pastor. She was filled with joy, almost frustratingly so, and you always took a deep breath when you saw Eunice approaching. One Sunday morning, Eunice gave me and my fellow pastor an envelope and a smile. I took mine home that day and opened it to find a check for \$1000 and a note. "I was reading in Exodus about the priest's garments and thought you should really have a new suit for worship." I was flabbergasted.

As we read today's section of the story, we find God's instructions about the priests, Aaron and his lineage. And the first thing that is described is the clothing. He carries stones on his shoulders with the names of Israel's tribes engraved on them so he remembers that he approaches God for all his people. He wears a breastplate with 12 stones, each engraved with the names of Israel's tribes so he remembers that he represents all of his people when he approaches the Lord. These and all the rest are Holy, set apart for ONLY this use, just as Aaron and his sons are Holy, set apart for God.

Do you ever consider how you dress when you come before God in worship or even prayer? As "a holy nation" and "a nation of priests", we represent each other when we come to God. Do you have anything that reminds you of that? There have been church wars fought over whether it is more holy to wear a suit ("We dress up for those we consider important!") or jeans and a T shirt ("God wants me to come to Him with authenticity, the real me, not some dressed up fake!"). And the answer is a wonderful, Covenant, "both!" The question is not what we wear like it was for Aaron, but why we wear it. If we wear a suit to honor God, then please keep wearing suits to worship. But if we wear a suit because people will think more of us, or because God will be mad if we don't, then that is something you need to bring to God and find the truth about. If you wear shorts and a T shirt in the summer to worship because God accepts us all as we are, our true selves, then please keep wearing them. But if we just want to be comfortable, or are too lazy to dress up, then that is something you need to bring to God and find the truth about.

God doesn't care what you wear when you come before Him. He cares about you. But how we dress is a great opportunity to expand our morning worship. And it can be a good tool to help us remember that we represent not just ourselves but our whole LCC community when we go to God in prayer.