

# The Beginning

The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings, hence the name. In the first three chapters we witness the beginning of many things—things that are fundamental to our understanding of life, God, mankind, and eternity. Note some of the beginnings.

The universe (1:1).	Marriage (2:18-25).	Blame (3:9-13).
Time: days (1:1, 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31).	Temptation (3:1-5).	Plan of salvation (3:15).
Mankind (1:26, 27).	Sin (3:6).	Judgment (3:14-24).
Law (2:15-17).	Guilt, shame (3:7, 8).	

With such foundational truths expressed in Genesis 1-3, we wonder how anyone can treat the chapters lightly. If these chapters are undermined, by saying they are figurative or an adaptation from pagan myths, then the rest of the Bible is in question. Faith is eroded when the beginning of the Word of God is undercut.

- Steven F. Deaton

### Assemblies

Sunday Morning	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.

### Elders

Tom Brown	502-921-2778
Laymon Byers	502-957-3627
John Smith	502-231-5341

### Evangelists

Ron Halbrook	502-955-1748
	halbrook@insightbb.com
Steven F. Deaton	502-543-9686
	sfdeaton@insightbb.com

**Phone: 502-957-5115**

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## NBA Dress Code

The NBA recently announced a new dress code for the players because it is trying to improve its image. Evidently, it no longer wants to be known as the league of gangster rappers. The following is from the NBA's web site.

### 1. General Policy: Business Casual

Players are required to wear Business Casual attire whenever they are engaged in team or league business.

“Business Casual” attire means

- A long or short-sleeved dress shirt (collared or turtleneck), and/or a sweater.
- Dress slacks, khaki pants, or dress jeans.
- Appropriate shoes and socks, including dress shoes, dress boots, or other presentable shoes, but not including sneakers, sandals, flip-flops, or work boots.

### 2. Exceptions to Business Casual

There are the following exceptions to the general policy of Business Casual attire:

#### a. Players In Attendance At Games But Not In Uniform

Players who are in attendance at games but not in uniform are required to wear the following additional items when seated on the bench or in the stands during the game:

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- Sport Coat
- Dress shoes or boots, and socks

#### b. Players Leaving the Arena

Players leaving the arena may wear either Business Casual attire or neat warm-up suits issued by their teams.

#### c. Special Events or Appearances

Teams can make exceptions to the Business Casual policy for special events or player appearances where other attire is appropriate -- e.g., participation in a basketball clinic.

### 3. Excluded Items

The following is a list of items that players are not allowed to wear at any time while on team or league business:

- Sleeveless shirts
- Shorts
- T-shirts, jerseys, or sports apparel (unless appropriate for the event (e.g., a basketball clinic), team-identified, and approved by the team)
- Headgear of any kind while a player is sitting on the bench or in the stands at a game, during media interviews, or during a team or league event or appearance (unless appropriate for the event or appearance, team-identified, and approved by the team)
- Chains, pendants, or medallions worn over the player's clothes
- Sunglasses while indoors
- Headphones (other than on the team bus or plane, or in the team locker room)

[http://www.nba.com/news/player\\_dress\\_code\\_051017.html](http://www.nba.com/news/player_dress_code_051017.html)

So, what do you think about that dress code? Does it have any lessons for us? Let's make some observations.

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“In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”

- 1 Tim. 2:9, 10

First, your clothing tells others something about you. If you dress like a gangster rapper, people will view you as a vile, vulgar, hoodlum. If you dress like a harlot, people will consider you a harlot (Prov. 7:10). If you dress “business casual” you will garner some respect and people will view you with some dignity.

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Second, it is interesting how people in the world make a connection between dress and image, but many Christians do not. If the world understands the way you dress sends a message, then why do we have a problem? If the world knows that dressing in a bikini, mini skirt, a revealing top, or tight fitting clothes will attract the attention of others—in a sexual way—then why will Christians try to deny it?

Third, the NBA's dress code will not change the character of its players. Your dress will not change your character, though it may cause others to view you in a different way. Your inner character will reflect outwardly, including your manner of dress (Mk. 7:20-23). Therefore, work on your spirit and the rest will follow (1 Pet. 3:1-5).

Finally, the church is not going to institute a dress code for worship services. However, if it did put one in place like the NBA has, would your clothing meet the criteria? Would you need to alter the way you dress for services or public appearances? You know, Christians represent the church all the time. Are we saying you must dress business casual when mowing your lawn or attending your child's soccer match? No. What we are saying is, “What kind of message do your clothes send about you—and how does that reflect on the church?” Think about it.

- Steven F. Deaton

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And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, “thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. “All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

- Mark 7:20-23