

Ed Young, Jr. – Helping God Avoid "Fashion Victim Status"

(Source: "Do Not Be Surprised" website)



Some weren't so sure, and speculated that perhaps this was just another of Young's goofy stunts. Well, it *is* goofy, but it isn't a stunt. If it is, then it has become quite elaborate, with blog entries covering everything from Spanx for men to the right dress shirt collar to skinny jeans. Young even found himself making headlines at [ABC News](#).

The prominent news network published an interview with Young, wherein he is quoted as saying:

"I think people that are followers of the word should be the most creative people on (sic) the world." "We should be at the forefront of fashion," he continued. "I think we have the ultimate message and should dress up with the times." (Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/runway-pulpit-pastor-ed-young-dishes-fashion-advice/story?id=16379672#.T7ty22isjdn>)

The report continues:

The pastor says he has advised hundreds of people about the latest in fashion. And, people throughout the country ask the pastor if they can send text messages for help on what to buy such as coats, ties and suits.

One cannot help but wonder, amid all of these fashion questions, how many theological and spiritual questions does Ed Young receive? When a person

thinks about Pastor Ed Young, Jr., what is the first thing that comes to mind: Brooks Brothers, or the Word of God?

The ABC News report continues:

Young's blog, which was launched earlier this year, advises pastors and members of the clergy on what to wear -- and what not to wear -- and offers fashion tips about the latest trends. The idea is to help keep God current by avoiding fashion-victim status. And, while you can't judge a book by its cover, Young states, "You need to make the cover as good as possible so people will read the book." ([Source](#))

Interestingly, the Bible expresses no concerns over the dreaded possibility that God might become less relevant due to the wardrobe of His pastors. Young's efforts to "keep God current," then, are completely unnecessary. God is not worried about becoming a "fashion victim." No, that seems to be a concern that lies solely within the mind of Ed Young, Jr.

Young further declared,

Being a follower of Christ should be cool because God is cool, God is hip. We should live that out. ([Source](#))

It is difficult to believe that John the Baptist, with his wardrobe of camel's hair and diet of locusts and honey ([Matt. 3:4](#)) was seen by the people as the first century equivalent of "cool" and "hip." Yet people flocked to him. What was the attraction? Could it be that the Word of God, the Gospel of repentance and forgiveness of sins, is what attracted so many to this wilderness dwelling preacher?

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ([Mark 1:4-5](#))

Young states that the pastor must "make the cover as good as possible so people will read the book." This statement is abominable. Is Ed Young, Jr. implying that *his* appearance and *his* wardrobe, will be the deciding factor in whether a person expresses interest in hearing the truths of God's Word? Does Ed Young, Jr. really think that a person's salvation may depend upon whether he wears a striped shirt or not?

It seems as though Young has forgotten that it is the job of the pastor to proclaim the Word of God and to teach sound doctrine ([2 Tim. 4:2](#); [Titus 2:1](#)). If His truths are proclaimed, then God will have no difficulty demonstrating His authority. If the pastor gets out of the way and simply allows God's Word to speak, then the Holy Spirit will perform His work of drawing people to Himself without any fashion aid. That is what will get people to "read the book," not the color of Ed Young's tie.

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ([1 Peter 5:5b](#))