

## A new controversy

I'm sure all of us can agree that during his earthly ministry, Jesus' standard apparel was a white robe. This is something we all learned at an early age, from flannelgraphs of Jesus.

But today I present to you, dear brothers and sisters, a controversy which has potential to split churches and yea even homes.

The question is this: was Jesus' sash, worn over said robe, red or blue?

Now I, for one, fall firmly into the blue-sash-Jesus camp, as he was thus represented in all my childhood flannelgraphs. Sadly, I have found a number of my students, and even more appallingly, at least one of my colleagues, who endorse the red-sash-Jesus position. This is, I'm sure you will all agree, a travesty which borders on heresy.

And so I pose the question to you, my loyal reader(s): are you red-sash-Jesus-only or blue-sash-Jesus-only?

I know I'm ready to make it a separation issue.

(Note: I'm already anticipating that the biblicists will try to choose purple-sash-Jesus. Compromisers.)



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### 33 comments:

1. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#)) | [Greg Linscott](#)

A comparison of the materials available in our Sunday School archives seems to indicate that the majority of flannelgraph evidence points to a blue-sash position. The pattern of history also establishes that the people of God have granted their approval to the blue. These recent red and purple *perversions* twist and distort the evidence to suit the compromising agendas of a modern audience whose desire is to soothe their own base desires for compromise and rebellion.

Furthermore, red is a color associated with communism, the British armies that persecuted our American forefathers, and the Ohio State University. It carries a sense of moral repugnance almost universally recognized amongst any rational thinking person. It seems that the old wisdom of the proverb “Better dead than red” is one that still rings true in this age of postmodern relevancy.

Jesus wore only one sash, my friends.

2. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#)) | [William Farrow](#)

It is clear that you are looking at this through traditionalist and tainted glasses. If we go back to the original sources it will become obvious that the sash that Jesus wore must have been purple, as that is the only solution that allows for both the Red and Blue traditions to have arisen. We KNOW that the synoptic writers drew from a common source in their authoring of the NT and that what appears there must be a synthetic account that draws from and adapts information from another source that we do not have, let's call it Q. It is clear that what we are looking for is from where the Blue and red traditions could have arisen and Purple is the only reasonable answer.

It is typical of fundamentalists and Evangelicals to seek to impose their own perceptions of color as well. Just because Red is red now, that doesn't mean that red has always been red. Blue might have been the Red of that day and vice-versa. What is blue and what is red anyway, but a cultural perceptible issue. “Some authorities” have bravely come forward and asserted that we need to reimagine the color issue and see to it that these non-essentials are put in their proper place. What is important is what color will draw men and women to the comfort of dressing like Jesus. We can't really know what color he wore and it is arrogant to assert that we do.

We might also note that in the Gospel of Prada, a 3rd – 4th century Gnostic Gospel there is very clear indication that Jesus varied his choice of sash color to match His sandals and there were frequent times when He wore no sash at all, but a belt. This obviously trustworthy source has been suppressed for centuries and is now shedding new light and helping us to reimagining the sash issue.

3. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#)) | [Scott Aniol](#) ([URL](#))

I ask you, my friends, where in the *Bible* does *God himself* tell us which sash Jesus' wore? If it is not in the Bible, we dare not express dogmatism in even the slightest form. Any assertions regarding the color of Jesus' sash are merely personal, subjective opinion, to which everyone has his right as an individual priest. We have liberty my friends!

Furthermore, I agree with William's insightful observation. How do we know what red or blue were in first century Jewish culture? We certainly cannot assert any kind of universal claims in the realm of color. Clearly color is merely a cultural convention subject to the popular whims of a particular society.

And don't dare start spouting your “light wave reflection,” “prism spectromography” nonsense you two-book, *Sola-Scriptura*-hating legalists!

If it's not in the *Bible*, then it is not important!

4. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#)) | [Ryan](#) ([URL](#))

This is just another example where the spawn of Detroit Baptist Theological Cemetery are trying to take the power of the blood away from Christians. OBVIOUSLY Jesus' sash was red, because his blood was red.

5. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#)) | [Greg Linscott](#) ([URL](#))

If you mean to tell me, William, that for generations the specific, literal color of the sash has been inaccessible to the people of God- well, all I can say is that you have been spoiled by philosophy and vain deceit!

Another factor to consider here- when we look at the long line of Reformation Sunday School Materials, you will discover that in the original BLV (Betty Lukens Version) demonstrates how the blue sash color and been preserved through the generations to where we are today. The "true blue" sash is the sash of the historic Christian faith. If we change the sash's color today, what next? Today, only red or purple... tomorrow, pink? Lavender? Perhaps a subtle paisley or plaid print? Where will the slippery slope end?

Mr. Aniol (I hesitate to call you "brother"),

Standards are needed today more than ever. Why don't you just take your libruhl, post modern fluffy philosophy back to the halls of the "cemetery" where you found it!

My Blue Brothers, we need DISCERNMENT in the APOSTATE HOUR!

6. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#)) | **T. J. Klapperich**  
Michael

I have seven (the number of perfection) reasons Jesus' sash had to be blue.

1. The color blue used in flannel graphs over the years has been blessed by God
2. The older blue sash comes from material that is not copyrighted. The modern red sash comes from those greedy of filthy lucre through their copyrights.
3. God promised to preserve for us the truth about Jesus. It is not until recent times that modern flannel graph perversions have questioned the preserved truth about Jesus' sash.
4. All the red sash perversions draw the very idea of a sash from the inspired and miraculously preserved blue sash tradition. Satan never creates he only perverts and it is through this perversion of the color of Jesus' sash that he is leveling the most serious attack today to destroy the New Testament Church.
5. No one in history has been able to destroy the blue sash tradition. It has been under attack throughout the centuries, but unbelievers have been unable to destroy it.
6. The blue sash stands up to all of the scientific, historical, and cotton fabric tests that unbelievers can through at it.
7. I called my Grandma and she told me that Jesus' sash was blue and my Grandma wouldn't lie. We need to get back to our grandparents' flannel graphs.

7. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Greg Linscott](#) ([URL](#))

Brutha TJ,

Your clear declaration and support of the truth is like the oil that ran down Aaron's beard.  
Amen?

8. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Scott Aniol](#) ([URL](#))

You liberal traditionalists! Don't you believe in the blessed doctrines of the Reformation? Don't you believe in *Sola Scriptura*? Don't you know that universal assertions about the color of Jesus' sash have arisen only out of the heretical traditions of Romanism?

All things are lawful, brothers! There is no unclean color! Why can't we all just get along and love each other regardless of color preferences?

9. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Jeff](#)

As I acknowledge my RSJO roots, I must call for unity on this issue.  
Red, Yellow, Blue, and White, all sashes are precious in His site.  
Brothers, can we not just get along?

10. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Greg Linscott](#) ([URL](#))

Men,

May I recommend a title for you to peruse on the issue at hand?

<http://greglinscott.wordpress.com/2007/0..>

11. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Michael Riley](#) ([URL](#))

As I've discussed this further with my students, I've found that the red-sash/blue-sash controversy has an even greater significance than I could have ever imagined. For instance, there is no doubt that an early sign of compromise on this issue would be a preference for Coke over Pepsi. The slope is indeed slippery, and changes like this are indications of a shift in ministry philosophy.

Furthermore, although I'm not sure what to make of this, I can't help but think that one's position on this is influenced by or influences one's political affiliations, for, as we all know, our nation is divided into red states and blue states. Perhaps the Democratic Party is more spiritual than I had given it credit for.

12. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Scott](#) ([URL](#))

Jesus was born from lineage of David and the Star of David emblem on the Israeli flag is blue. Obviously, Jesus wore a blue sash.

13. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Ryan Martin](#) ([URL](#))

Michael Riley and Scott Aniol,

I formally challenge you two to a public and open debate over the color of the sash of Jesus.

14. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Chris Anderson](#) ([URL](#))

So many possibilities:

This opens up a whole new “line-in-the-sand” type debate. Type blue fundies, type red, type purple, type chartreuse, etc.

Of course, we’ll need to determine if one is a five point blue (navy), 4 pointer (royal), etc.

And I call dibs on the book title “The Quest for the Historical Sash.”

15. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Michael Riley](#) ([URL](#))

Greg,

I’ve got another book recommendation, and this one I think might be even more valuable than yours.

<http://www.mpriley.com/images/najs.jpg>

16. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Matt Ulbrich](#) ([URL](#))

I’ve seen no mention of the neo-sashangelicals. They hold to a Jesus with a yellow sash (!?)

<http://www.thefeltsource.com/Jesus2child..>

These “believers” consider yellow to be culturally relevant, emotionally engaging, and intellectually superior (think Wal-Mart smiley guy).

Yet another evidence of the secularization and commercialization of the church.

17. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Greg Linscott](#) ([URL](#))

Mike,

Would you believe what I found in my mailbox today?

<http://currentchristian.com/personal/vid..>

18. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Ryan](#) ([URL](#))

I guess we see who’s wearing the yellow sash now ... Aniol and Riley, the DBTS heretics, that’s who.

19. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Michael Riley](#) ([URL](#))

OK, that’s it, Mr. Martin, you’re on. My place or yours?

20. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Chris Anderson](#) ([URL](#))  
The books and video are too funny.

21. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [cwatson](#)  
Did Jesus even wear a sash?

22. June 21, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Ryan Martin](#) ([URL](#))  
Mine.  
[http://immoderate.wordpress.com/2007/06/..](http://immoderate.wordpress.com/2007/06/)

23. June 22, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Scott](#) ([URL](#))  
“...(think Wal-Mart smiley guy).  
Yet another evidence of the secularization and commercialization of the church.”  
(Matt Ulbrich, post 16)

Just speculation, but perhaps Wal-Mart is moving in the direction of blue sashism. New dress code policy requires all associates to wear a shirt that is some shade of blue.

24. June 22, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Ron Bean](#)  
There is no mention of a sash in the original manuscripts therefore the sash itself is an addition to the historical, fundamentalist tradition by those who seek to pervert the simplicity of WWJW (What Would Jesus Wear).

I suspect that the first sash was found in a Roman Catholic Thrift Shop and promoted solely on the basis of its antiquity.

25. June 22, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Rory Martin](#) ([URL](#))  
seriously, you guys all have far too much time on your hands; although, I must admit that this is entertaining.

Personally, I never knew there was so much debate on the topic; I was only taught that the sash was blue. Narrowminded bigotry I suppose.

26. June 22, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Pearson](#) ([URL](#))  
As a true Fundamentalist who is faithful to his DBTS teaching, I see this as a black and white issue, not red and blue. Your arguments are an evidence of the politicalization of our churches. Sad...

27. June 22, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Ryan Martin](#) ([URL](#))  
Pearson, this is much bigger than black and white, or even DBTS versus CBTS. This is about orthodox versus heterodoxy. That's what's sad. And what's even sadder is that you are trying to politicize the issue by saying I'm politicizing the issue.

Besides, everybody knows that Central is *far* better than Detroit.

28. June 22, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Joel Johns](#) ([URL](#))  
I thought it was all done in black and white.

29. June 22, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Pearson](#) ([URL](#))  
Ryan,  
Let's set politics aside and look beyond color to the real heart issue here.

30. July 03, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Richard Copeland](#)  
Wow, I guess I am kinda late on the issue, but I was always taught that Jesus did not have a sash, but rather a tunic of brown over a white robe. Probably because I have lived in Utah since '95. <http://lds.about.com/library/gallery/cli..>  
The Mormons, however, tend to flip between the Blue or Red robe theory as well as the blue or red sash theory.

31. July 23, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Michael Konves](#)  
I realize I'm getting in on this debate a little late, and I also realize it's all in good fun; however, I did want to point out something. Revelation 1:13 (as part of a description of the risen Christ) says, "I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to his feet, and girded across his chest with a golden sash." NASB I realize that this is the risen Christ, and not a description of how he looked during his earthly ministry, but hey, it's pretty explicit as to the color.

32. July 23, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Michael Riley](#) ([URL](#))  
Michael,

Stop confusing this issue with exegesis!

33. July 24, 2007 ([Edit](#) / [Delete](#))| [Ryan](#) ([URL](#))  
Michael Konves,

I can see where a novice exegete like yourself could make a faulty assumption. Here are some things you need to think about before you start jumping to conclusions:

1. This is a depiction of the post-glorified Christ. To conclude that what Jesus wears now is what he wore while on earth is far from necessary.
2. Everyone knows that χρυσην in Bible times had a hint of red to it (everyone denies that it had any hint of blue, by the way).
3. χρυσην is a textual variant. I mean, this is so obviously in contradiction with the rest of the New Testament, even the rest of the Bible, most conservative scholars assume that this is a copyists' error, even if there is nothing in your textual apparatus. *Regula Fidei*, brother.
4. This is Revelation and should not be taken literally. Only a super-ultra-uber-

hyperfundamentalist would take this passage literally. You need to look beyond the flesh of the passage to the Spirit. The point is not what color Jesus' sash was, but what that represents in the larger contextual framework of the pericope and, ultimately, in the Apocalypse itself.