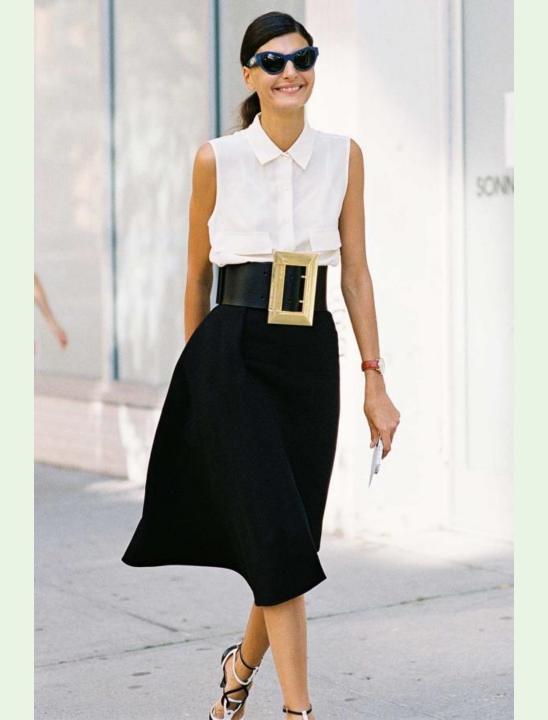


For as a **BELT** is bound around a man's waist, so I bound the house of Israel and Judah to me ... to be my people for my renown and praise and honor. *(Jeremiah 13:11)*







<u>Proximity</u>. <u>Affinity</u>. <u>Unity</u>. <u>Continuity</u>. <u>Intimacy</u>. *The belt wraps the clothing and person into a harmony of size, look, function, and form. A belt is an instrument which draws (and holds) objects **together**.

OUB PURPOSE

 to draw people into <u>relationship</u> with God, to <u>bring</u> them near and <u>keep</u> them near in fellowship.

✓ <u>teach</u> people about God

- ✓ <u>turn</u> their attention toward God
- ✓ <u>tell</u> people the truth of God
- ✓ teach them with the love of God

Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it. (I Corinthians 12:27)

Now if someone who does not understand or some unbeliever comes into your meeting, while everyone is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner. (I Corinthians 14:24)

PARADOX. We are the BODY of Christ and we are the BELT by which God connects unsaved people to the body of Christ.

Connections ...

Chamber of Commerce > **business** Peace Corps > service projects Food Pantry > food Head Hunters > job e Harmony > date Otterbein > God

But food does not **bring us near** to God. We are no worse if we do not eat, no better if we do. *(I Corinthians 8:8)* We connect people with God in (at) church.

We connect people with God through the church.

We connect people with God because we are the church.

<u>HOW?</u>

- Explanation the message
- Encouragement my influence and love
- Example showing the difference God makes to <u>you</u>