

How to make the most of your portrait session.

by

Kurt Nelson

Clothing!!! See the following pages for visual samples.

- In family portraits you should avoid wearing any white unless everyone is in white and you LOVE your body shape.
- Always plan to see shoes and socks in portraits. (No white tube socks please)
- Patterns in clothing are fine **IF** they don't contain contrasty tones. Avoid dark and light tones in the same pattern. Monotone is the key. Groups of 5 or less should not have more than two people in patterns.
- Solid colors are the safest and best way to go but not everyone in the same exact solid color. Use layering of clothing to blend tones. TEXTURES are great!
- The absolute best clothing to wear for families is all mid tones but "slightly" different shades of that mid tone. NO BIG CONTRAST between each persons clothing.
- Loose, baggy clothing makes us look larger in photos...Avoid super tight clothing that shows the bulges we don't want to see!

My favorite colors to use in a group photos are different tones of the same color family.

Good colors to use are:

GRAYS, MIDDLE TO SOFT BLUES, SOFT GREENS, DARK REDS, SOFT PURPLES. BLACK, CREAM (ONLY IF EVERYONE IS IN CREAM AND YOU LOVE YOUR BODY SHAPE)

The Scene

- You want your portrait to look like it belongs as part of the decor of your home. It is best to use clothing colors that you use in your home decor.
- We really want the background and the clothing to be of the same tone. If you wear light colors, I suggest a light background and vice versa. In this way faces stand out more than the body shapes.

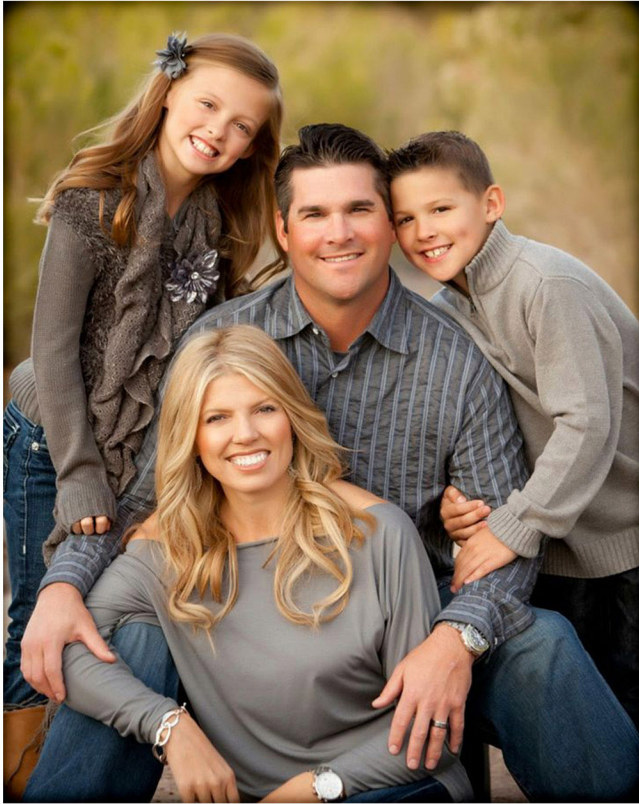
Prep

- If you want guidance on your clothing, take a photo of your clothing choices and text it to me at 214-850-7342. I will look at it to help tweak it.
- Take photos of the spots in your home you want to hang your portraits. I will look at them to help us decide on your photo day what would look best in these locations.
- Tape an 8.5x11 piece of paper on the wall and stand perpendicular to that wall. Take a photo of the wall. During the order appointment we can use the photo to show you what your photo will look like on that wall. Email to kurt@innovativeimagesphotos.com

VERY GOOD

CLOTHING CHOICES

These are samples of good group clothing choices.
Patterns can be used, just make them subtle and not many people with them.
ONE person is best!



GREAT clothing here, medium tone and one pattern, that is subtle!



Simple clothing sometimes makes the strongest statements. See how the faces stand out.



Both Groups created color harmony but no bold patterns, see how you see the faces!



Almost perfect, boys shirt is a little bold.



Very good color harmony.



POOR

CLOTHING CHOICES

All of the samples below are from Pinterest telling you what to do.
All of these have at least one person's clothing in them that distracts from the family group.



Dads shirt pattern is too bold



Royal blue dress draws all the attention



White sweater is all you can see.

Black and white sweater is dominant plus bold red can be a bit much.

Three white items draw your eye to their clothing.



POOR

CLOTHING CHOICES

All of the samples below are from Pinterest telling you what to do, they are not the best choices. Busy patterns draw your attention away from faces and to the clothing. Nearly everytime white is in the pattern it creates the problems.



No sense of harmony, the pink and purple are distractions and too many patterns.



Both Groups created color harmony but bold patterns of light and dark suck all the attention.



Again contrasty patterns are the cause of distraction



They tried to create color harmony but everyone is in a different pattern.



Patterns, patterns, patterns on 4 out of 5 people