

CLOTHING AND MODESTY

If Jesus stood in the room with you now and told you to do something, would you do it? If He clearly showed you in the Bible why you ought to stop doing something, would you obey him?

Once you know you are saved, you need to seriously ask questions like, “What is pleasing to God? What is not?” Many times our thoughts are not His thoughts. The key is to have a teachable, godly spirit.

There are some things God does not approve of. When it comes to obedience, there are no little matters with God. There are no minors in the Word of God. There are certain barriers you may have in your life that could stop God from blessing you as He desires.

I Thess. 5:21 says: *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”*

Prove means to “test for His approval.” “I do not see anything wrong with it,” someone says. That does not matter. We need to be able to take the Bible and prove what **is** right. A child of God will be interested to find out what pleases his Father and do it.

I Thess. 5:22 says: *“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”*

The word appearance means “that which strikes the eye.” You may say, “Well, it is what is on the inside that matters.” Yes, that is very true, but the lost world can only see the outside. If we were unsaved, our appearance might not matter so much, but a child of God represents Him. (I Cor. 6:19-20)

Notice what Eph. 5:6-11 says: *“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”*

Gen. 35:2 says: *“Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:”*

The word “exchange” means to “change from one type to another.” **It matters to God what His children wear!**

II Cor. 3:2 says: *“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:”*

Just as a sad countenance reveals a problem, clothes reveal rebellion, low self-esteem, or desire for attention and approval. Clothes are more than just covering for the body, they represent emotions and opinions.

Someone says, “It is legalism to tell people what they can and cannot wear.” No, if God’s Son shed His precious blood to buy you, He has a right to direct your life. I John 5:3 says: *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*

We should not have our eye on what others are wearing or not wearing. We should focus on pleasing God. Does my clothing please God?

GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT: WORLDLY CLOTHING

I John 2:15 says: *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*

James 4:4 says: *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

Our clothing cannot please both God and the world. Consider the clothing designers. Are they Christians? No. So whom do you think they are trying to please - God or the world? But you say, “These clothes are all that is being sold in the stores today.” That is no excuse. Be stylish, but godly.

View how the average person at an office or a public school dresses – most of the time that should not be the clothing of a Christian. One day each Christian will give an account to God for his appearance.

Deut. 22:5 says: *“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.”*

Deut. 23:18 says: *“Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.”*

But, you say, “That is in the Old Testament.” Yes, and the Ten Commandments are, too. God never hates something in the Old Testament and then loves it in the New Testament.

OLD TESTAMENT LAWS CEREMONIAL LAWS

Those were given to the Jews to show the Gentiles they were God’s chosen people. The eating of pork, shellfish, etc. and mixing garments are an example. All of these things had meaning to put a difference between them and the Gentiles.

MORAL LAWS

These always dealt with right and wrong. Col. 2:14-17 says: *“Blotting out the*

handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.” Jesus’ crucifixion did away with ceremonial laws. The moral laws for everyone are still in effect. Deut. 22:5 is a moral law. The women in the Old Testament looked a lot like the women of today.

DEUTERONOMY 22:5

The word “wear” means “become or take a step toward.” The word “pertain” means “vessels or instruments.” Thus: “Taking a step toward wearing instruments.” Man’s purpose in clothing is to dress for work. Woman’s purpose of clothing is to show submission and modesty.

Arabians still dress the sexes differently today. The men wear shorter robes with different stitching and a border. **GOD HATES MAN’S CLOTHING ON A WOMAN AND A WOMAN’S CLOTHING ON A MAN.**

GOD WANTS DISTINCT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SEXES:

HAIR LENGTH

I Cor. 11 says women are to have the longer hair and men to have the shorter hair.

CLOTHING

Men: pants were called breeches (Ex. 28:42) in the Bible times and were only worn by men. There are rock singers that are male and look female. How confused our young children will be growing up in a unisex society.

QUIZ

Necklace	-	Male or female?
Hose	-	Male or female?
Lipstick	-	Male or female?
Silky shirts	-	Male or female?
Earrings	-	Male or female?
Blue jeans	-	Male or female?

The goal of parents ought to be to rear masculine boys and feminine girls.

Do not be a part of the devil’s unisex movement. God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. Did you hear about what the wedding preacher did? At the end of the ceremony, he said, “Will one of you please kiss the bride?”

If you want to raise a man - dress him like a man.

If you want to raise a lady - dress her like a lady.

Deut. 22:5 is in the Bible only once, you say. Guess how many times John 3:16 is in the Bible. . .once!

If certain clothing is abominable to God, that means He hates it in **public** or **private** wear. Is it consistent for a Christian lady to wear a dress to church, and pants at home?

HISTORY

Generally, women made clothes for many years, until the turn of the century when mass manufacturing turned the tide. In 1910-1920, new women emerged who had short hair and smoked. Up to 1910, the swimsuits were even pretty modest. Women wore dress-like swimsuits with shoulders covered. Men wore tank tops with knee-length pants. A cartoonist showed 1615 with a woman in a chair with her Bible. Then he showed her in 1915 slouched in a chair smoking and reading a fashion magazine. In 1920-1930 very low necklines replaced the slight “V” necks. Hems came above the knee. Speakeasies or dance halls emerged with Sigmund Freud’s philosophies. There was no movie censorship until 1934. In 1930-1940 actress Marlene Dietrich brought women’s pants onto the screen. Women began wearing them along with hats and ties. At the end of the 1930’s many women added shorts and halters. Becoming discontent, they embraced smoking, vulgar language, dancing, drinking, men’s clothing, tight, short skirts, low necklines, and strapless tops.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH PANTS ON A WOMAN?

1. Deut. 22:5 says it is an abomination. Pants have always been a man’s apparel.
2. It accents the private parts of a woman’s body.
3. It accents the figure of the thighs. (Isa. 47:1-5)

EXCUSES SOMETIMES OFFERED

1. “Dresses are not comfortable.” Let the Bible be your guide.
2. “There are certain sports you cannot do in a dress.”
3. “There are no decent clothes in stores.” Learn to sew.
4. “I do not feel it is a big thing.” Let God determine how big it is.
5. “They are accepted today.” By whom?

PROVING WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE UNTO THE LORD!

MODEST CLOTHING

I Tim. 2:9 says: *“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamedfacedness and sobriety; not with brioded hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;”*

Adorn - to bring beauty
Modest - well ordered
Apparel - (Greek - katastole) to send down in a draping fashion

A woman’s clothing should bring beauty and be well ordered. Here clothes should coordinate and be neat. They should be draping and not tight, or clingy, revealed the

sacred, secret parts of a woman's body.

1. Clothing should not bring attention to itself. It should always accent the lady's face.
2. A woman will be held accountable for every man who lusted because of her clothing. Matt. 5:28 says: *"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."* Men are attracted by sight.
3. Christian ladies should not wear the clothing of harlots. Prov. 7:10 says: *"And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart."* Isa. 47:1-5 says: *"Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man. As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel. Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms."*

The thigh is mentioned as nakedness in these verses. Revealing the ankle or calf does not cause lust in a man, but the thigh does. The Paris prostitutes began wearing mini-skirts so they could do business in the daytime as well as at night.

WHAT CAUSES LUST?

Any clothing that reveals the thigh and any clothing that reveals or accents the sacred parts of a woman's body:

Shorts

Tight clothing

Bathing suits (when men and Women swim together)

Bra-less clothing

Slits above the knee

Revealed midriff

See-through clothing

Low necklines

Swimming is not wrong. Being half naked in front of the opposite sex is!

Luke 8:27 says: *"And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs."*

When the maniac of Gadara got saved - he put clothes on!

Acts 19:16 says: *"And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and*

overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”

The devil promotes nudity. God is the one who provided clothing for Adam and Eve.

CLOTHING IS FEMININE OR MASCULINE

Look for the word “abomination” in the following verses. It means something that God hates exceedingly. **God still hates today what He did then!**

Prov. 11:1 says: *“A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.”*

Lev. 18:22 says: *“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”*

Deut. 12:31 says: *“Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.”*

CONCLUSION

It is time Christians go past how they feel and hunger after a close, acceptable, proved, pleasing relationship with God. Maybe much of your wardrobe has been ruled out - sew up what you can, throw away and replace what you cannot.

Do not be ashamed if you do not have many godly clothes for awhile. God is interested in modesty, not variety. Some husbands even buy a dress for every pair of pants their wives discard.

REVIEW CLOTHING AND MODESTY - STEP 35

1. Define appearance: _____

2. A Christian represents _____ in their appearance.
3. Give a reference that proves obeying God's commands are not grievous:

4. Does the world seek God's approval of their clothing? _____
5. Give two Scripture references stating that certain clothing could be worldly.

6. Define adorn: _____

7. Define modest: _____

8. Define apparel: _____

9. Clothing is to accents a lady's _____.
10. Who will be held accountable for their clothing? _____

11. Give a Scriptural reference about a harlot's clothing: _____

12. When a woman reveals her _____ God calls it nakedness.

13. Name some clothing that can cause lust: _____

14. What is wrong with men and women swimming together? _____

15. Define abomination: _____

16. Clothing is _____ or _____.

17. Define:
Ceremonial law _____

Moral law _____

18. Define (Deut. 22:5):
Wear: _____

Pertain: _____

19. Name two things wrong with pants on a woman:

20. List any clothing changes you need to adjust in your wardrobe or your children's:
