

Modesty In Attitude And Clothing

Unlike the world, Christians' clothing should reflect the attitudes of orderliness, bashfulness and self-control

Introduction

- As Christians, how do we, both men and women, determine what clothing we will wear?
- Does it matter?
- Often, we follow worldly thinking from Feminists, the fashion industry or whatever we feel is comfortable no matter whether it reflects a modest attitude or not

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Introduction

- Fashion industry promotes displaying of physical beauty above all to the point of enticing others
- Comfort and style reign above all else
- Feminists teach women have the right to do anything with their bodies they choose without consequences
- Feminists affected by their hatred for men, marriage and God's submissive role He gives to women

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Introduction

- Christians must not follow the world's attitudes toward their clothing but rather display modesty, soberness and orderliness in how they dress
- Although we focus on the dress of women, these attitudes apply to both men and women
- As we study, let us ask ourselves, "Why do I wear this type of clothing in any given situation?"

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Modesty In Attitude And Clothing

Creation, the Fall and clothing
New Testament passages on modesty
Answering objections

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Adam And Eve – Naked And Unashamed

Gen 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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Adam And Eve – Naked And Unashamed

- Created naked and unashamed
- Reason – no sin committed
- Naked means either total or partial nudity
- Their sin changed everything

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Their Sin Changed Everything

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. 8

Their Sin Changed Everything

Gen 3:8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Gen 3:9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

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Their Sin Changed Everything

Gen 3:10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Gen 3:11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

Gen 3:21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

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Their Sin Changed Everything

- Both became aware they were naked
- Made aprons or loin coverings to cover themselves
- Loin coverings not enough clothing to make them not naked
- Nakedness directly connected to sin, shame, fear and guilt

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Their Sin Changed Everything

- God made garments (coats or robes) of skin to sufficiently cover their nakedness
- This implied the loin coverings made by Adam and Eve were insufficient to cover their nakedness
- Possible to be naked while partially clothed
- How we clothe ourselves not to be determined by "natural" law but by the Word of God

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1 Timothy 2:9-10 – Key Passage

From NASB

1Ti 2:9 Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,

1Ti 2:10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

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1 Timothy 2:9-10 – Key Passage

From KJV

1Ti 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.

1Ti 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

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1 Timothy 2:9-10 – Key Passage

- What is stylish and comfortable is not to govern godly women's attitudes that determine how they dress
- We look now at the three words in verse 9 that describe these underlying attitudes women are to have in determining how they dress

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Proper Clothing Or Modest Apparel

Proper (NASB) and modest (KJV) means orderly arrangement, decoration, adornment

1Ti 2:9 Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,

1Ti 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

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Modestly Or Shamefacedness

Modestly (NASB) or shamefacedness (KJV) means downcast eyes, having ability to blush, bashfulness, shamefastness, decency, propriety

1Ti 2:9 Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,

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Discretely Or Sobriety

Discretely (NASB) or sobriety (KJV) means propriety, moderation. From a word meaning soundness of mind, sober-minded, self-control.

1Ti 2:9 Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,

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Discretely (NASB) or sobriety (KJV) means propriety, moderation. From a word meaning soundness of mind, sober-minded, self-control.

1Ti 2:15 But *women* will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

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Applications

- What we mean by "modest" clothing is clothing that reflects the attitudes of orderliness, bashfulness and soberness
- Attitudes apply to both men and women
- Immodest dress or action is anything that calls improper attention to us

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1 Peter 3:1-6

1Pe 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

1Pe 3:2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

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1 Peter 3:1-6

1Pe 3:3 Your adornment must not be *merely* external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
1Pe 3:4 but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

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1 Peter 3:1-6

1Pe 3:5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

1Pe 3:6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

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Applications

- Do not appeal to unbelieving husband through clothing calling attention to physical beauty
- Gentle, quiet submissive spirit should overshadow how you dress
- Dress should not interfere with display of spiritual attributes that show true beauty

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Answering Objections 1

- "If someone lusts after me, that's their problem."
- Men and women are responsible for controlling lustful thinking
- But, how we dress and behave can have an affect on whether others will be led to lust

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All Responsible For Controlling Their Desires

Mat 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';
Mat 5:28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

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All Responsible For Controlling Their Desires

Mat 5:29 "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Mat 5:30 "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

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We Can Encourage Others To Lust By Clothing We Wear

Luk 17:1 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come!

Luk 17:2 "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble.

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Answering Objections 2

- "I can go to the beach or the pool without lusting after anyone."
- But, are you sure no one will be tempted to lust after you?
- Why would Christians want to expose themselves to others, even other Christians?
- Are you against swimming? No, just against immodest attitudes and dress.

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Answering Objections 3

- "What is wrong with wearing.....?"
- Why should we have to ask this question?
- Should we not rather ask, "What is good and right and modest?" when it comes to what we should wear

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