

MODESTY OR IMMODESTY?

What would our daughters and granddaughters say about our apparel? Will they say we are dressed modestly, or in such a way as to attract undue attention, or would they say we are dressed to attract the wrong kind of attention? When our children are small they like to imitate us. They watch us from the time they are born, and all those years growing up. We have so little time to teach our children. Too many times they are influenced by the wrong crowd or friends. They are so easily persuaded to do wrong or just fit in with the crowd. We must be good Christian examples. Example is the most powerful way to instruct. If we don't dress modestly, how can we expect our children to do so? If we want the men and boys to respect us, we need to show them that God lives in us. Dressing immodestly will give the girls a bad reputation. It will follow them all their lives. We all have need to decide whom we are trying to please—God or others. When they have too much flesh showing, it can lead to boys lusting after them. The Lord condemned lasciviousness in Matthew 5:28. Our bodies belong to the Lord. We should treat every day as if He is coming. Are we ready?

In our modern society, however, many women are not satisfied with God's way and they feel that they must attract a boy friend or husband through the physical apparel or flesh. Many dress designers have admitted that this is the purpose behind their creations. Clothes are worn for decoration, provocation and “look at me” (or “a lot of me”). Too many women dress in short skirts half-way between their waist and knees, in low-cut blouses half-way between the shoulder and the waist, and in skin tight garments. Men lusting after such women does not build a lasting relationship. Women are to adorn themselves in modest apparel, as women professing godliness with good works (1 Tim.2:9-10). Exposing the flesh glorifies the flesh. Modest apparel glorifies God.

One of the girls who attended Christian school showed up for a Sunday night worship service, dressed in sleazy apparel. One of the young men from the school (perhaps not too kindly) commented on her clothes. After the worship, her offended father sought out the young man and said, “I hear that you called my daughter a prostitute.” The young man replied, “No, I just said she looked like one.” Then he walked away. Her parents should have overruled their daughter's poor judgment. How sad that a young Christian man had to do it for them. Some say covering oneself is “old school”. “Old school” is when God showed Adam and Eve that fig leaves are not sufficient, and made proper garments for them (Gen.3:7-11). Which commandment of God are we allowed to ignore and still go to heaven? Who are we to question God? Women who are concerned with the rules of worship and in pleasing God, there can be no question about the matter of attire or clothing. The kind of attire will be determined by the heart and the holy traits of the woman.

We all want to look nice in our clothes, but we must pay attention to how the hem lines are and how low our necklines are. Let's each one of us dress like Christians and how God commands. Dignity has to do with a sound mind. After all, Christian women are to profess godliness. We must have respect and reverence, which begins with “self”. As Shakespear said, “To thine own self be true.” The Christian woman's standard is superior to that of the world. When we dress each day, dress if God is with us, because He is. We should be known for our good works, learning in silence, living in subjection, and being in assurance of our salvation. The choice is ours—Modesty or Immodesty. Let's not let the world make that choice for us. The way we choose will determine the direction we are heading toward eternity.

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