

MODEST APPAREL

- Modest clothing is a Bible subject
 - Principles taught in both the Old Testament and the New Testament
 - It is a female AND a male issue. But remember that men are more visually-oriented
- Our clothing conveys meaning; describes
 - It is a reflection of our knowledge, our thinking, our attitude toward God and others
 - Genesis 38:14-16; 41:14
 - Matthew 22:11-13
 - Proverbs 7:10
- The subject of wearing modest apparel does not begin with the apparel
 - It begins with the disposition of our heart
 - Our clothing reflects what is inside of us
 - This is evident from what we will read in 1 Timothy 2:9-10

- 1 Peter 3:3-4
 - “Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”
- We are interested in what is beautiful and precious in the sight of God
 - Meek and quiet spirit
 - Women can find themselves trying to be beautiful in the eyes of the world, but Christians are interested in what is beautiful and precious in the sight of God, what is a Christ-like character
 - That spirit of godliness is also described in 1 Timothy 2:9-10

I desire therefore that the men pray in every place, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and disputing. In like manner, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness and sobriety; not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment; but (which becometh women professing godliness) through good works.

(1 Timothy 2:8-10, ASV)

- Three key words
 - Apparel (clothing) that is modest
 - Is that which is governed by internal attitude of shamefastness and sobriety
 - Modest
 - Orderly, well-arranged, decent, suitable
 - Shamefastness
 - A sense of shame and modesty that is rooted in the character; restrains one from an unworthy act; involves an abhorrence of doing what is dishonorable and cringing from going beyond – crossing the line – the limits of modesty and crossing into immodesty
 - Sobriety
 - Sober-minded, self-control, sound judgment; “discreetly” NASB; discretion: thinking carefully, seriously, and clearly with good judgment

- Shamefastness & Sobriety – 2 concerns
 - Do not want to cross into what is unbecoming
 - Still know how to blush (cf. Jeremiah 6:15)
 - Both elaborate over-dressing and under-dressing is not modest
 - Isaiah 3:16-24 – over
 - Here in 1 Timothy 2 – over and under
 - Concerned with how dress affects others
 - Luke 11:5-8
 - “importunity” (“shamelessness” in NASB)
 - This man is unashamed about waking his friend at midnight, troubling him
 - He is shameless concerning the effect on his friend
 - Opposite is shamefastness that is concerned with effect on others

- Shamefastness & Sobriety
- Consider questions that illustrate two contrasting attitudes:
 - “How little can I get by with?”
 - “How can I avoid any appearance of insufficient dress and avoid attracting (wrong) attention?”

- A Bible principle: nakedness is not necessarily nudity
 - Before the old covenant
 - Genesis 3:7, 10, 21
 - They made “coverings” (girded about the loins)
 - “I was naked and hid myself”
 - God “clothed” them with tunics
 - In the old covenant
 - Exodus 28:42
 - Among Gentiles
 - Isaiah 47:2-3
 - Nakedness can mean insufficient clothing
 - Not having the waist to thighs covered is called nakedness
 - Nakedness: shame, from Genesis to Revelation

- Modest dress
 - Covers our nakedness
 - Reflects shamefastness, sobriety, purity, a meek and quiet spirit

- Why be sure to dress modestly with shamefastness and sobriety?
 - Shame is associated with nakedness
 - Genesis 2:25...3:7,10
 - Revelation 16:15
 - It is for our good; God is protecting us
 - Hebrews 13:4
 - You should not reveal that which is to be reserved for your spouse in marriage
 - Proverbs 5:18-19

- Why be sure to dress modestly with shamefastness and sobriety?
 - We do not want to give occasion for others to sin
 - Matthew 5:28
 - It is not becoming of a Christian
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:7
 - What you wear is setting an example to others
 - Matthew 5:13-16
 - If to no-one else, to your children and grandchildren
 - We do not want to conform ourselves to the world but we want to be transformed according to God's will
 - Romans 12:1-2

- This is not just about what you and I wear when we come together to worship
 - What we wear when we go to work
 - What we wear when we are in the community
 - What we wear among others in recreation and sports
 - One definition of nakedness and shamefastness and sobriety when at worship but another when at the beach?
- Excuses given for immodest dress
 - Everybody does it
 - It doesn't mean what you think it means; I mean nothing by it
 - The world knows; advertising knows; but we don't know?
 - “You're the one with the evil eye”
 - Losing ability to blush over that which should cause blushing?
 - Popularity
 - Hot weather

- Fathers and Mothers

- Let us teach our children the true beauty to desire and the true beauty to possess

- 1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4

- This involves rejecting the immodest dress of the world

- Enforce

- Lead also by example