

# THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO MORALS

## A LOOK AT MODEST APPAREL

1Timothy 2:9,10

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. People in general, it seems, are no longer concerned about modesty in their manner of dress
- B. Indications are that there are people who believe there is no such thing as immodesty. "Women use to dress like Old Mother Hubbard, now dress like her cupboard - bare."
  - 1. (website) Largest nudist christian church in America!
  - 2. (website) Nude Church In Virginia? Pastor And Congregants Naked As They Worship God
- C. Christians are being tempted to give in to the world's standard of morality and sacrifice truth and modesty
- D. Many have yielded and immorality has crept into the church
- E. What is said in 1Tim 2:9,10 primarily applies to women, but by no means excludes men as will be shown in the lesson

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. DEFINITION OF RELATED TERMS FROM SCRIPTURE:

- A. NAKED: (1) Unclothed Mk 14:51,52; (2) Scantily clad or poorly clad Matt 25:36,38,43,44; Acts 19:16 (torn garment) Jas 2:15; 1Cor 4:11; (3) Clad in undergarments only Jhn 21:7 (Vine's Exp. Dict.)
- B. APPAREL: A garment let down, dress, attire (Thayer's Greek English Lexicon)
- C. MODEST: Orderly, well arranged, decent; the well ordering is not of dress and demeanor only but of the inner life, uttering indeed and expressing itself in the outward conversation (Vine's Exp. Dict.)
- D. SHAMEFACEDNESS: A sense of shame, that modesty which is rooted in the character - the opposite of brazenness; a shrinking from all that is indelicate (combination of sources)
- E. SOBRIETY: Reasonableness, rationality, good judgment, self government with its constant rein on all the passions and desires which would hinder the temptations to these from arising (Vine's Exp. Dict.)
- F. From Rev 3:17,18 we learn nakedness is a shame
  - 1. From the definitions we understand that modest apparel includes more than just covering the most necessary places, as some would contend
  - 2. In Gen 3:7,21 "Aprons" (anything girded on - Youngs) were not sufficient

#### II. THE EFFECT OF IMMODESTY

- A. Effect on the woman
  - 1. Violates principles of 1Tim 2:9,10
  - 2. Causes others to stumble Rom 14:21; Lk 17:1,2

- 3. Does not indicate a profession of godliness
- B. Effect on the man
  - 1. Commits adultery in his heart Matt 5:28; 1Pet 2:11
  - 2. Is not abstaining from appearance of evil 1Thess 5:22
  - 3. A Gallop poll showed more than 50% of young women interviewed dressed for men and not for women
- C. Men and women are included in word lasciviousness in Gal 5:19 as a work of the flesh
  - 1. Shameless conduct - that which produces lewd or evil emotions.
  - 2. A woman that would dress so as to cause a man to lust after her is guilty of lasciviousness and so is the man. And of course the reverse of this is true also
- D. What about families together? If you don't believe relatives will lust after each other, you haven't read Ann Landers

#### III. A LOOK AT MODERN DRESS

- A. Conformity Rom 12:1,2
  - 1. Women and men even "Christians" have welcomed the chance to reveal the worldly and fleshly feeling in the name of fashion.
  - 2. When the mini-skirts were stylish; mothers shortened theirs and their daughters dresses so much that it was impossible for them to walk in public decently - much less sit down.
  - 3. If you are conforming to the styles, listen to what you are conforming to: The designer of the mini-skirt, when questioned on Nov 13, 1963 "...Mini clothes are symbolic of these girls who want to seduce a man."
  - 4. Anytime conformity overrules a precept of God, a Christian cannot conform Acts 5:29
- B. Swimsuits -- offer the excuse to expose more of the body in public with absolutely no shame whatever
  - 1. Most do not go to beach or pool to swim, but be seen
  - 2. Mixed bathing would not be popular if not mixed
  - 3. Note Jas 4:4 (friendship with world) and Tit 2:14; 1Pet 2:9 (peculiar people)
- C. Shorts or scanty clothes (low cut dresses or slit skirts) men without shirts, etc. etc.
  - 1. Argument about being too hot not valid. Army test: heat gain of ones clothed was 120 calories an hour - ones nude was 200 calories an hour
  - 2. Reader's Digest July 1963 - 9 ways to beat the heat, one was wear some clothes
- D. What about pants and pantsuits?
  - 1. Arguments based on Deut 22:5 - we are not under Old Law, however, consider Rom 15:4 and take a lesson from God's attitude toward the distinction of the sexes

2. I do not believe that a pantsuit designed for a woman is necessarily wrong just because it involves pants. But there must be a distinction between the sexes as is Paul's point in 1Cor 11:14,15
3. The skin tight clothing does, however, in whatever form violate 1Tim 2:9,10

E. Some criteria to judge by:

1. Would I be embarrassed if Jesus saw me wearing this
2. Does my husband (father) regard this as modest?
3. Would such tend to be lascivious Gal 5:19
4. Would such dress lead another to commit adultery in their heart Matt 5:28
5. Does such dress befit a woman (man) professing godliness 1Tim 2:9,10 (note verse 8 with verse 9)

#### IV. CLOTHING IS SYMBOLIC OF CHARACTER

- A. Character of one wearing immodest apparel Prov 7:10-13
  1. Wily of heart (subtle) v. 10
  2. Loud, stubborn, gadabout v. 11
  3. Aggressive, promiscuous v. 11
  4. Impudent face (unashamed - brazen) v 13
  5. Attire of a harlot v. 10
- B. Character of one wearing modest clothing 1Tim 2:9-15
  1. Shamefacedness (ability to blush - opposite of brazenness) v. 9
  2. Sobriety (sound judgment, self-government) v. 10
  3. Quiet and submissive v. 11
  4. Motherhood - continue in faith, charity, holiness with sobriety v. 15 (woman's role in life is motherhood)
- C. Remember the principles established from 2Sam 13:12,13
  1. All governed by same standard - God's
  2. Each concerned about relation to others
  3. Each one keep themselves pure

#### CONCLUSION:

- A. God fearing people cannot abandon the required virtues of modesty, sobriety and shamefacedness no matter what the crowd or fashion suggest
- B. When parents fail to call a halt to themselves and their children regarding fashion, entertainment and society where these sins are involved, they bring upon themselves, their children and society swift destruction
- C. Remember Prov 11:22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman without discretion. I believe the same would be true of a man.