

Biblical Modesty

Introduction

1. This morning I'm going to be discussing some Bible principles that show us the importance of modesty.
2. In this lesson we will look at how a Christian can remain modest in an immodest world.
3. Every person needs to know what God's standard is for modest dress, the consequences of immodesty, and what to do to take a stand for that which is modest.
4. Let's begin by reading and examining the following:
Genesis 3:7-10
 - A. When we read about the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden, we think about the sin of disobeying God, but do we think about the second sin?
 - 1) What was Adam and Eve's second sin? It was immodesty.
 - B. Soon after they ate of the tree, they knew they were naked and used fig leaves to cover themselves.
 - C. Yet, for all of their efforts, when God came in the garden, they still thought they were naked and hid.
 - D. Having eaten of the fruit of knowledge, they now experienced guilt from being immodestly dressed.
5. Due to their sin, they now lived in a world where nakedness was immodest.

6. **We still live in that immodest world today.**
 - A. **Immodesty dominates much of what is watched on TV and at the movies in our country today.**
 - B. **One can't watch a decent program without fear that a Victoria's Secret commercial will suddenly appear.**
 - C. **Moreover, our nation has an entire industry (the porn industry) that monetarily thrives because of the sin of immodesty.**
 - D. **Many of our nation's evils and crimes would vanish if only our people would pursue modest dress and behavior.**
7. **So, how does the Christian remain modest in an immodest world?**

By Knowing God's Standard for Modest Dress

1. **How do we know such a standard? God's word reveals it to us if we will simply study it.**
2. **After God cursed Adam and Eve he made "coats" or "tunics" for them.**

Genesis 3:21

 - A. **Why would God do this if He didn't think it was necessary?**
 - B. **The clothing that they made for themselves was insufficient.**
 - C. **Better clothing was needed.**
 - D. **God fitted them with "coats of skins."**

- E. The word for “coat” in this passage indicates that they were “covered” from their shoulders on down.**
 - F. God’s standard for clothing, thus, includes both the upper and lower portions of our torso.**
- 3. God made sure that the Israelites understood what needed to be covered.**

Exodus 20:26 Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, **that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.**

Exodus 28:40-42 For Aaron's sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty. So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests. And you shall make for them **linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs.**

- A. They were to be covered to the degree that their nakedness was not exposed.**
- B. To not do so was an offence to God’s holiness and punishable by death. In the next verse we read;**

Exodus 28:43 They shall be on Aaron and on his sons **when they come into the tabernacle of meeting,** or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy place, that they do not incur iniquity and die. **It shall be a statute forever to him and his descendants after him.**

4. In the New Testament we learn that basic morality has not changed from Old Covenant.

A. Christians are all priests of God – are we not?

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

B. We have no more right to serve God immodestly today than did the priests under the Old Covenant.

C. Moreover, Christians and in particular, women are exhorted to be modest.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

D. The standard here is not to draw attention to oneself due to apparel whether from the lack of it or from its abundance.

E. We can know what modesty is by looking at the examples under the Old Testament.

F. Let us understand that God's standard for modesty is...

1) To cover our body from our shoulders to below our thighs.

2) To cover our body in a way that we won't be exposed (either through no clothing or inappropriately tight clothing); and to not draw attention to ourselves.

By Understanding the Consequences of Immodesty

1. Direct Consequences

- A. **Sexual Lust** – “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (**Matthew 5:28**).
- B. **Pornography** – “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world” (**1 John 2:16**).
- C. **Undesired sexual advances (sexual harassment)** – “neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks” (**Ephesians 5:4**).
- D. **Lewdness** – “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness” (**Galatians 5:19**).
- E. **Fornication** – “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints” (**Ephesians 5:3**).
- F. **Homosexuality** – “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites” (**1 Corinthians 6:9**).
- G. **Adultery** – “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (**Hebrews 13:4**).
- H. **Rape** – **1 Corinthians 6:9**

- 2. Secondary consequences (consider David and Bathsheba)**
 - A. Sexual Disease**
 - B. Illegitimate Pregnancy**
 - C. Murder**
 - D. Drug Abuse**
- 3. The ultimate consequence – eternal damnation.**
 - A. We sin.**
 - B. We forfeit our good relationship with God by offending his holiness.**
 - C. We lose our souls for all eternity.**
- 4. Immodesty is the root of much evil in this world; how much could be averted if we simply dressed modestly?**

By Taking a Stand for Modesty – Not Tolerating Immodesty

- 1. We should not dress in a way with which others would find fault in our modesty.**

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, **children of God without fault** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, **among whom you shine as lights** in the world,

- 2. We should not go to places that are known for public immodesty.**

1 Peter 4:4 In regard to these, they think it strange that **you do not run with them** in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

- 3. We should not attend events that glorify immodesty. (Garbage in, garbage out).**
- 4. We should not watch television programs, movies, or listen to radio stations that glorify immodesty. (Garbage in, garbage out).**
- 5. We should explain to our friends and family what is appropriate and not appropriate dress – based on God’s teaching, not ours.**
- 6. We should lobby our public representatives to support legislation that censors immodesty and promotes modesty.**

1 Peter 3:10-12 For “He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. **Let him turn away from evil and do good**; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but **the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.**”

Conclusion

1. **How does the Christian remain modest in an immodest world?**
 - A. **Knowing God's standard.**
 - B. **Knowing the consequences.**
 - C. **Taking a stand for modesty and opposing immodesty.**
2. **Don't forget the lesson that God taught Adam and Eve about modesty.**
3. **We must not only know God's teaching – but then sincerely practice it in our daily lives as Christians "professing godliness."**

