

# Worldliness

## Immodesty

### Introduction

1. I am continuing our series of lessons on Worldliness.
  - A. I want to appeal to each one to think, to look at our self and to realize that: **"I could be wrong. Some of my clothing could be immodest."**
  
2. To begin with we must consider two things:
  - A. The Bible sets the guidelines about our dress.
    - 1) A violation of the guideline is sin – the Bible must be our standard concerning modesty.
      - a. We cannot rely on the world, our parents, the preacher, the elders, or the fact that I may have always thought or done such and such.
  - B. We must want to dress in harmony with the Bible.
    - 1) If so, then we will listen and appreciate it.

James 1:21-22 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- 2) If not, then we will have rejected God Himself.

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

## Reasons People Dress Immodestly

1. **There are several reasons that can be given as to why people dress immodestly:**
  - A. **Ignorant and untaught**
  - B. **Want to fit in with their "friends"**
  - C. **Want to be bold and "turn heads"**
  - D. **Careless – Don't stop and think**
    - **About divine principles**
    - **Allow the world's standards to influence them**
    - **Brethren gradually get looser**
  - E. **Don't know how they really look**

## The First Clothing

1. **One only has to turn to Genesis, chapter 3 to learn of the first clothes.**
  - A. **We can see the difference ranging from total nudity (v7) to being clothed from the shoulder to the knee (tunic) (V21).**
    - **V.1**
    - **V. 11**
    - **V. 21**
    - **Shoulder to the knee**

## 2. The Tunic:

- A. Hebrew: KUTTONET – "a tunic...; generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees, rarely to the ankles" (Gesenius, 420; cf. Harris, 1:459; Brown, Driver, Briggs, 509).**
- B. Fred H. Wright, Manners and Customs of Bible Lands, 91 says:** "The Tunic (inappropriately translated 'coat') was a shirt which was worn next to the skin. It was made of leather, hair-cloth, wool, linen, or in modern times, usually of cotton. The simplest form of it was without sleeves and reached to the knees or sometimes to the ankles. The well-to-do wore it with sleeves and extending to the ankles. Women as well as men wore it. Although there was no doubt a difference in style and pattern in what was worn by the two."

## Modest

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

- 1. When we look at the word "modest" we can learn several things from dictionaries, lexicons and concordances.**
- A. Dictionary:** 1) "having or showing a moderate estimation of one's own talents, abilities, and value." 2) "Having a shy or retiring nature; reserved." 3) "Observing conventional proprieties in speech, behavior, or dress." 4) "Quiet and humble in appearance; unpretentious; a modest house." 5) Moderate; not extreme: a modest charge." (American Heritage Dictionary, p. 806)

- B. Lexicon: W.E. Vine:** "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." (Vol. III, p. 79).
- C. Lexicon: Strongs:** "orderly, i.e. decorous: – of good behavior" (#2887). From kosmos (#2889) which means orderly or well arranged. Word for world.
- D. Lexicon: Thayer:** "well-arranged, seemly, modest" (p.356).
- E. Lexicon: Bauer:** "respectable, honorable" (p.445).
- F. Lexicon: Kubo:** "modest, respectable" (p. 205).
- G. Concordance: Englishman's Greek Concordance** shows that this word is only used two times in the New Testament. It is translated "modest" in 1 Timothy 2:9 and "of good behavior" in 1 Timothy 3:2.

## 2. We learn then that to be modest is to be:

- A. Reserved**
- B. Humble**
- C. Respectable**
- D. Decent**
- E. Orderly**

## Related Principles

1. **Shame** (1 Timothy 2:9)
  - A. KJV uses the word "shamefacedness"; "propriety" - NKJV.
  - B. Greek word "AIDOS" - "that which would always restrain a good man from an unworthy act" (Vines, Vol. IV, p. 17).
  - C. Strong suggests that it may be from two words which would give the idea of "downcast eyes" thus meaning "bashfulness" (#127).
  
2. **Good Judgment** (1 Timothy 2:9).
  - A. KJV uses the word "sobriety"; NKJV uses the word "moderation."
  - B. Greek word "SOPHROSUNE" which means "soundness of mind... sound judgment, practically expresses the meaning; it is that habitual inner self-government, with its constant rein on all the passions and desires which would hinder the temptation to these from arising..." (Vines, Vol. IV, pp. 44-45).
  - C. "Soundness of mind, i.e. (lit,) sanity or (fig.) **Self-control**" (Strongs, #4997).
  
3. **Godliness** (1 Timothy 2:10).
  - A. Darby: "profession of the fear of God"
  - B. Greek word "THEOSEBEIA" which means "denotes the fear or reverence of God..." (Vines, Vol. II, p. 162). "Devoutness, i.e. piety" (Strongs, #2317).

#### 4. **Nakedness**

- A. **Complete Nudity: "unclad, without clothing"** (Thayer, p. 122).
- B. **Partial Nudity: "Ill-clad" or "clad in undergarment only"** (Thayer, p. 122). "badly clad" or "not fully clothed" (Kittle, 1:773-774). "lightly clad" (Liddell and Scott, 170).

**POINT: One can have some clothing on and still be "naked"**

- C. **Exposing the thigh = exposing one's nakedness.**

Genesis 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 coverings.

Genesis 3:10-11 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

Exodus 28:42 And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs.

#### **(Judgments on Babylon – A parallel with physical nakedness)**

Isaiah 47:2-3 Take the millstones and grind meal. Remove your veil, Take off the skirt, Uncover the thigh, Pass through the rivers. Your nakedness shall be uncovered, Yes, your shame will be seen; I will take vengeance, And I will not arbitrate with a man."

**5. Our dress and actions affects others.**

Proverbs 7:10 And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.

- A. "Attire of a harlot" (Proverbs 7:10)**
- B. David saw Bathsheba and lusted (2 Samuel 11).**
- C. Man can easily lust**

Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Proverbs 6:25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.

- D. Mary Quant – the designer of the mini-skirt: "Mini-clothes are symbolic of those women who want to seduce a man."**

**6. Our clothes should:**

- A. Be modest – reserved, decent, respectable**
- B. Show shame – can blush, have shame**
- C. Show good judgment – common sense**
- D. Show Godliness – are devoted to God**
- E. Respect others – opposite sex could lust**
- F. Cover our nakedness – cover from the shoulder to the knee**

## Ways One Can Be Immodest

1. **Too Short, Too Tight, Too Thin, Too Low, Too Loose**
2. **When is one considered immodest?**
  - A. **What about that in the things we participate in?**
    - 1) **Sports**
    - 2) **Weddings**
    - 3) **Yard Work**
3. **Modesty vs Immodesty:**
  - A. **Modesty is that which has shame, exercises good judgment, exemplifies godliness, and is careful toward others.**
  - B. **Immodesty is that which has no shame, has poor judgment, doesn't fear God and that may help cause others to lust.**
  - C. **Things which would be considered immodest include:**
    - 1) **Swimsuits, cheerleading outfits, short dresses, split dresses, tight/form fitting clothing, sun dresses, low-cut blouses and dresses, shorts (revealing the thigh), jogging shorts, strapless dresses, swimming trunks, see-through styles, majorette uniforms**
    - 2) **STATE PRISON BANS SHORTS: From the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary Visitation Handbook: "All visitors shall dress in an appropriate manner...halter tops, tank tops, sun dresses, shorts and other revealing attire shall not be acceptable on persons age 10 or above."**

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Immodesty applies to men as well as women (Genesis 3:21).**
- 2. Immodesty applies when we stand, sit, bend or lean.**
- 3. Applies to more than the length of the clothing: Tight, form fitting, see through.**
- 4. May we always strive to be pleasing to our heavenly Father in all areas of our lives. The way we dress is one of those areas.**

