

## THERE ARE THINGS I CAN'T DO IN A DRESS

July 24, 2007 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org); for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) -

The following is from the author's new book, "Dressing from the Lord," which is available from Way of Life Literature. It is not yet available for order via the online catalog but can be ordered by phone (866-295-4143).

I have heard this many times, but many godly women of past and present have dressed in a feminine fashion and have still been able to do all sorts of things, riding horses, snow skiing, plowing fields, tossing hay from a barn loft, you name it.

One woman testifies:

"Our foremothers settled this land, built houses, planted gardens and tended animals in long skirts and beautiful dresses. Even their aprons were wonderful to behold! Surely in our day of microwaves, washing machines, and vacuum cleaners, we can do our chores with as much feminine flair as they. Personally, I feel it is uplifting to the spirit to go through each day in womanly attire. Let's dignify our work by dressing appropriately and beautifully for it!" ("Through the Week in Feminine Dress," <http://www.ladiesagainstfeminism.com/articles/weekinfeminedress/mrschancey.htm>)

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One woman wrote to me on this issue and described how she likes dresses even in the cold and on a farm:

"Dresses are easy for me, far more comfortable, and in the winter, extra shielding against the cold. Lest they think we need run around bare legged underneath, there are any number of leggings and warmies that go nicely, and the one or two loose flouncy skirts on the outside are that much more protection to me in freezing cold winds which we get a lot of. The skirts just cut the wind chill. I often wear the leggings all the way to the ankle covered with a boot and no one ever sees the leggings. I have my farm dresses, wonderful, comfortable tough denim, with big pockets to carry my carrots and vitamin C (chewable) for the goats, or eggs from the chicken house or tools or screws and nails, or hoof trimming tools. Can't beat them."

One man wrote:

"My mother is 88 years old and worked in the cotton fields alongside my father back when we did it all by hand. I've never seen my mother or either of my grandmothers in pants or shorts and they all worked in the fields. I have never seen any of the women who raised me in any of the items that you mentioned. I thank God for the example they were to me."

I can say the same thing. My maternal grandmother died in 1976 when she was 80 years old and she never wore pants in her life. Neither did my paternal grandmother, who died in 1971 at age 73. One of my favorite pictures is of my maternal grandmother in a field hoeing turnip greens wearing her modest dress and her bonnet to ward off the hot Florida sun. That generation is gone, of course. My generation (I was born in 1949) is the last one for whom it was common that their grandmothers wore only dresses. But the fact that the times have changed and Western society has corrupted itself and traded God's principles for the Devil's does not stop individual Christian women from keeping the light of modesty burning in their personal lives and passing the torch to their daughters and granddaughters.

I believe that a good choice for some occasions is for girls and women to wear modest culottes that are cut like a loose-fitting skirt. One woman who raised nine children, five of them girls, wrote:

"Culottes are great for everyday! My girls never had to give up climbing trees, riding bikes or horses, they even played street hockey with their brothers. Bowling, volleyball, hikes, gardening, roller blading, and floor cleaning all go great with culottes!"  
(<http://www.myculottes.com>).

Another possible choice for some occasions is to wear leggings underneath a long skirt or dress.

One woman wrote to ask:

"As a Christian woman who wants to be physically fit, I need to know what modest clothing other Christian women use for active wear, such as sports, aerobic activities, and mat exercises."

Culottes would be one possibility. In my estimation, aerobic exercise for a woman should be done in the privacy of one's own home rather than in public, anyway. And if a sport requires any sort of immodest or unisex attire, it isn't worth it! As one woman wrote, "If you can't do a certain activity while dressed properly, you don't need to do it!"

Jesus challenged us to "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). If I put God first and honor His Word, I will enjoy His provision and blessings, and there is nothing that is worth losing that over.

There is one more thing I would like to say in reply to this challenge ("I have to wear pants on some occasions to be modest"). It is usually just a red herring, because women who throw out this challenge commonly dress in pants on any occasion.

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