

Modesty for Teens

By Jessica FitzPatrick

If you are like most teens, you probably have been in a discussion about modest clothing with someone before. Right? Well, how we dress plays a big part on how well we reveal the Lord to others. Question . . . Does your outfit distract others from seeing God's glory that should be radiating from your countenance? The clothes you wear tell and show how much (or how little) you love the Lord.

First of all, why do we even wear clothes? You may be thinking "to cover our selves." You're right! Why do we need to cover ourselves for? Did we always need to put on clothes? Let's go back into history to the first man and first woman, Adam and Eve. Did they wear clothes? Yes, but not at first. Initially, "they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Genesis 2:25). So when did they start wearing clothes? The Bible says that when they disobeyed what God had said concerning the fruit, "the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked ;"(Genesis 3:7a). Immediately, they started making clothes for themselves with what they could find: leaves. Why? Because they now needed to cover their shame. As you can imagine leaves do not make the best of clothes, so God made better garments for them from the sacrifice that had to be made for their sin (Genesis 3:21). Now Adam and Eve had a continual awareness of their sin and its affects every time they looked at their apparel. So we dress ourselves in clothes because: (1) God gave us them to cover up ourselves because of our sin; and (2) for the continual awareness that we need forgiveness when we sin.

We know why we wear clothes. Now it's time to decide what clothing is modest and what is not. What is modesty? Modest-Having a regard for decencies of behavior or dress; quiet and humble in appearance, style, etc.; not displaying one's body; not boastful or vain; unassuming; virtuous; shy or reserved; chaste¹. This definition gives us good guide lines to "prove" our attire as modest or not. Is this definition in agreement with what the Bible says? That is a very important question. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

What does the Bible say about modest dress? Well to start, the Bible states that men should be dressed in men's apparel; and women should wear women's apparel (Deuteronomy 22:5). In fact, the Bible emphasizes that it is just as immodest for a man to wear a dress as it is for a woman to a pair of men's breeches in God eyes.

Many times in Proverbs and in 2 Timothy 2:22, God says that we should guard our eyes from ungodly things and flee from them. What is ungodly then is

immodest! If we as Christians need to guard our eyes from the ungodliness of the world, should we dress like the world? No! That just doesn't make any sense! We are responsible to God for our actions. If we are causing others to stumble or have to turn away from us because of our immodest clothing, how can we communicate to others of Christ's love? Which is more important girls, for you to show off that bathing suit or to know that you are keeping others' minds on God? Guys, is it more important to wear that outfit as it is to see another person come to know the Lord? Do your clothes show that you love the Lord Jesus?

The decision is now yours concerning your apparel. You know what the world thinks; you what God thinks. Who will you choose? "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:15-17)

CHALLENGE: REREAD THE DEFINITION AND THE VERSES AGAIN AND THEN LOOK UP IN YOUR BIBLE FOR ANY OTHER VERSES THAT YOU CAN FIND ON THE WAY WE SHOULD DRESS AND THEN WITH ALL THAT IN YOUR HEADS, HEAD FOR YOUR CLOSETS AND SEE HOW YOUR CLOTHES MEASURE UP! PLEASE E-MAIL ME AND LET ME KNOW HOW IT GOES!!! I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. MY ADDRESS IS
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¹ Green, Melody. Uncovering the truth about modesty.2002.<www.lastdaysministries.org/articles/uncoveringthetruthaboutmodesty.html >