



Modesty In Worship



Modesty In Worship

- The issue of modest attire in public has been addressed since the Bible was written
 - 1Tim. 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, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”
- Judah thought Tamar was a harlot because of the way she was dressed
 - Gen. 38:15

Modesty In Worship

- The matter of clothing in worship and its effect on worshipers is also addressed in scripture
 - James 2:2-4 - “For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, You sit here in a good place, and say to the poor man, You stand there, or, Sit here at my footstool, 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?”

Modesty In Worship

- The current need for this lesson
- How to approach this matter

The Measure Of Modesty In Worship

- Five standards that do not determine what is modest in worship. These things are not relevant in determining what is right
 - How much you paid for the clothes
 - What the previous generation wore
 - What you like to wear
 - What you find to be comfortable
 - What is considered to be the current fashion

The Measure Of Modesty In Worship

- Three standards that must be considered when determining what is modest and appropriate for worship:
 - Authority - What the word of God says
 - Attitude - How your heart moves you to apply what is written
 - Influence - The effect your clothing has on your fellow worshipers

What Is Written?

- Modesty means appearance appropriate to the occasion
- 1Tim. 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, 10 but, which is proper for women **professing godliness**, with good works.”

What Is Written?

- Apparel - katastole - “is somewhat broader in meaning than our English word... it conveys the idea of external appearance, principally in dress. It is deportment, as exhibited externally, whether in look, or in manner, or in dress.” (Wuests Word Studies)

What Is Written?

- Modesty - “Orderly, well-arranged, decent” (Vine, III, 79).
 - “The well ordering is not of dress and demeanor only, but of the inner life, expressing itself in the outward conversation” (Trench, Synonyms of the New Testament, 323).
 - “It describes one who disciplines himself and who may thus be regarded as genuinely moral and respectable, self-controlled, disciplined, well-mannered, honorable” (Kittel, III, 895-896).
- The first requirement for modest clothing is that it is orderly, appropriate, and that it does not draw attention to the wearer.

What Is Written?

- Shamefacedness (propriety - NKJV) - “a sense of shame; modesty, is used regarding the demeanor of women in the church; shamefastness is that modesty which is ‘fast’ or rooted in the character” (Vine, IV, 17).
 - “The shame, or sense of honor, which hinders one from doing an unworthy act; implies reverence for the good as good; shrinks from overpassing the limits of womanly reserve and modesty, as well as from the dishonor which would justly attach thereto” (Trench, 63-68).

What Is Written?

- Sobriety (moderation - NKJV) - “soundness of mind; ‘sound judgment’ practically expresses the meaning” (Vine, IV:44); “self-control” (Thayer 613).
 - “A command over the passions and desires, so that they receive no further allowance than that which the law and right reason admit and approve. This condition of self-command is taken up and transformed into a condition in which a man does not order and command himself, but is ordered and commanded by God.” (Trench 66-68).

What Is Written?

- Godliness - “the fear or reverence of God” (Vine, II:162).
 - “Godliness ... is respect or reverence manifested toward all things sacred, holy, and Divine. This attribute in the heart will always manifest itself in proper attire.” (Marshall Patton, Commentary on First Timothy, GOT, p 50)

Clothing Declares A Purpose

- It matters to God (fig leaf aprons vs. animal skin tunics)
 - Prov. 7:10 - clothing of a harlot
 - 2Sam. 13:18 - clothing of a virgin
 - Num. 15:38-40 - clothing for the religious
 - Esther 4:2 - clothing for mourning
 - John 21:7 - clothing for work
 - Matt. 22:12 - clothing for a wedding

Length Of Hair Declares A Loyalty

- Those loyal to Christ will look like it.
- Those loyal to friends or fashion will look like it.
 - Isa. 3:9 - “The look on their countenance witnesses against them”

The Word of God Requires

- 1Cor. 11:14-15 - “Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? 15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.”
- “But who judges how long or how short?!”

Where Is My Heart?

- The heart must be engaged in all we say and do
 - Prov. 4:23 - “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”
 - Prov. 23:7 - “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”
 - Rom. 12:2 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
 - Rom. 6:17 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”

Where Is My Heart?

- One's clothing will manifest, from the heart, either obedience to or rebellion against God and His Will.
 - “A woman's dress is the mirror of her mind.”
(Donald Guthrie, Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles, Tyndale, p. 84)

Where Is My Heart?

- Re-examine your belief that you can worship God intently from the heart inside while appearing casual, indifferent, or careless on the outside
- At the same time, be aware that a coat and tie can cover a sinful heart

Where Is My Heart?

- Be careful not to judge one another
 - Let those who have matured be careful not to discourage the young in the faith. Let them grow to accept a more reverential form of attire. Remember that some of you wearing suits today were wearing jeans to worship when I first came here
 - At the same time, let those who have some spiritual growing to do be careful not to resent the efforts of those helping them to grow in this matter. Stubbornness is also a sin.

Is My Influence Helped Or Harmed By My Attire?

- Christians exert an influence on others regardless of the setting, including worship services
 - Your personal comfort is not the first consideration in worship
 - We are charged with the task of sharing the gospel in this community. The influence of this congregation is critical to that purpose. What message does our appearance send to visitors?
 - What lesson are you teaching the children when you dress for worship the same way you would dress for a quick trip to Walmart?

Is My Influence Helped Or Harmed By My Attire?

- Appearance implies an attitude to others
 - Most of us go through life denying it about ourselves, while at the same time we measure the attitudes of others by the expression on their faces, tone of voice, body language, appearance, etc.
 - In the matter of our attire in worship, we need to be honest with ourselves and ask, “Does my appearance reflect my purpose to worship God with reverence and love?”

Is My Influence Helped Or Harmed By My Attire?

- In view of the matter of influence, the elders are in firm agreement on the following points:
 - Clothing that enhances ones sexual appearance is not appropriate for worship: low necklines, tight pants, short skirts, Capri pants, etc.
 - Shorts are not appropriate for worship services.
 - Those who lead in worship are asked to dress as leaders in worship. People are looking up to you for an example and for guidance during worship. Your personal comfort comes second to your responsibility to set a good example as a leader.

Judge for yourselves: In which of these pictures do these men look like they have come to lead in worship services?



Judge for yourselves: In which of these pictures does Gary look like he has come to lead singing?



Judge for yourselves: In which of these pictures do I look like I have come to preach the gospel?



Is My Influence Helped Or Harmed By My Attire?

- If you leave today thinking the elders are attempting to establish a dress code, you have misunderstood the lesson.
 - “Are you saying that I have to wear a coat and tie?!”
- No one here is going to judge you or demand that you wear different clothes. However, I am asking you to examine yourself: “Am I comfortable facing the Lord in judgment, when I...”
 - “...Was casual in my approach to worshiping Him,”
 - “...Was belligerent when instructed about the matter.”

Is My Leadership Helped Or Harmed By My Attire?

- We are asking for the following of those who lead in worship: collared shirt tucked in, clothes and shoes that are clean and orderly, hair that reflects Christian manhood; in other words, we are asking that your appearance reflect your activity... leading God's people in worship

Is My Influence Helped Or Harmed By My Attire?

- Just as we are laboring to help you protect your influence in this matter, so we must also labor to help protect the influence of this congregation.
- We have every confidence that you will dedicate yourselves to considering the word of God, that you will objectively examine your own conscience, and that you will come to the right conclusion.