

This problem is nothing new. Long ago a Christian made an observation on the dress by some women in his time:

*“Luxurious clothing that cannot conceal the shape of the body is no covering at all. Such clothing, clinging close to the body...outlines the woman's figure so that the whole shape of her body is visible to spectators even though they cannot actually see the body itself..... such clothing is meant for looking, not covering” - Clement, 180AD*

There may be a temptation to place all of the blame on those who look. It is true that the sin of lust is committed in the heart of the one who chooses to look (Matthew 5:28). Yet does not the Bible hold a greater condemnation on the one who entices another into sin?

Matthew 18:7 *“Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!”*

So we see that in the Scriptures, the one who allures another into sin can be held to the same degree or even greater than the one who sins.

## Whose Body Is It?

The world loves to teach that we own our bodies, and as such we have the right to do whatever we wish with them. Such arguments are made for abortion, drunkenness and drug use, suicide, and now for immodesty. But the righteous know that their body was purchased by God to be the temple of God. How we adorn that temple reflects on the heart of a worshipper.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

## The Need for Modesty



How should Godly people adorn themselves?

## The World's Attitude

Our society is absorbed with how we dress. There seems to be almost a desperate need to be identified by the style and brand of clothing we wear. What is not spoken of but is obvious is that often times what clothing makers means when they declare something looks "good" is that it is sexually appealing. Is that good?

The Bible makes a number of wardrobe recommendations to Christians. In particular, Godly women are directed to the following:

1 Timothy 2:9-10 *Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.*

1 Peter 3:3-4 *Your adornment must not be merely external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*

Both of these passages direct women to avoid being identified by their clothing. Neither writer wanted women to cease from wearing jewelry or braiding their hair, but to make sure that it is NOT the focus of their identity. Godly women are not focused on their looks, but on their conduct. One need only open a fashion magazine to see shallow and substance-less people who are focused on those things.

But there is still another side to modesty that needs to be seen. It is the sexual objectification of women by clothing manufactures to make them appealing to men. This is a spiritual and even physically dangerous game that will result in the destruction of self esteem, the capture of unwanted attention, and spiritual death.

## What NOT To Wear

Godly women today face a great deal of pressure to appear sexually enticing. This is accomplished by clothing that enhances or reveals those aspects that men find alluring. Often times, women are unaware that their dress is drawing the eyes

of those whom they would be better off without.

What types of clothing are dangerous for women who make a claim for godliness? We might consider as an example:

1. *Tight jeans/pants or tights*
2. *Short shorts*
3. *Tight shirts/t-shirts*
4. *See-through clothing*
5. *Low cut tops or dresses*
6. *Exposing clothing, like swimsuits*

All of these types of clothes are fashionably acceptable in the world, but are spiritually demeaning and immoral to the Godly. They tell the world that the wearer wants people to look; they unwittingly proclaim that the owner has such low self-esteem that ANY attention, even the eyes of the lecherous, is wanted.

What too many women realize is that when a Godly man sees a woman dressed in such a fashion, he is humiliated by their appearance. He looks away, and feel shame for their appearance. So the only attention that is being received is from the ungodly man.