

BACK TO SCHOOL

About Modesty

Introduction:

1. This series will focus on issues that we tend to think of as those facing the younger generation.
2. However, these matters concern all men – young and old, children and adults.
3. Sometimes, in our spiritual lives, we need to go back to school and reflect upon the teaching of Scripture.
4. Lesson 1 - Influence
5. Lesson 2 - Language
6. Lesson 3 - Dishonesty

I. Character and Clothing

- A. Whether we want to admit it or not, our outward appearance reflects our inward character.
 1. Philippians 2:14-16 – Every aspect of our lives must reflect the fact that we are Christians.
 2. This includes the way we dress.
- B. Our clothing can identify us as one who is ungodly.
 1. Genesis 38:14-16; Proverbs 7:10
 2. Isaiah 3:16-24
- C. Our clothing can show our support of ungodly things.
- D. Our clothing can reveal a lack of reverence toward God.
- E. Or, our clothing can demonstrate an attitude of godliness and modesty (1 Peter 3:3-6).

II. Considerations about Clothing

- A. We consider many things when deciding what to wear each day.
 1. Weather
 2. Destination
 3. Activity
 4. But, there are more important things we must consider.
- B. Consider God's Law
 1. Genesis 2:25; 3:7, 10, 21
 - a. "Aprons" = girdle or loincloth, around the hips
 - b. "Coats" = tunic, long shirt-like garment, robe – from shoulders to knees
 2. Exodus 28:40-42 – *waist to thighs (inclusive); hips to knees*
 3. 1 Timothy 2:9-10
 - a. Modest = orderly, well arranged, decent – no undue attention
 - b. Shamefacedness = propriety, a sense of shame, modesty
 - c. Godliness = like God; cf. Titus 2:4-5 – chaste = pure, pure from carnality, innocent
 4. Jeremiah 6:15 – Many have forgotten how to blush!
 - a. We used to blush when we were ashamed; now, we are ashamed when we blush.

- b. "I would like to find out what kind of fruit Adam & Eve ate that made them realize they were naked... because I'd like to pass it around again!"
 - c. Christians must be different from the world (1 John 2:15; Romans 12:2).
 - d. Women must learn not to entice men to look and men must learn to look away (Proverbs 5:18-19 *contrasted with* 5:20-23; Matthew 5:28; Job 31:1).
- C. Consider Other People
 - 1. Matthew 5:28 – We can be an obstacle to others.
 - 2. Luke 17:1
- D. Consider the Church
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 3:2 – My actions reflect upon the church
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:15-16
 - 3. Ephesians 5:25-27
- E. What is your most important consideration when you dress?

III. Culture and Clothing

- A. What we wear is not dictated by the fashion fads of our society.
- B. What we wear is not determined by what is popular among the crowd.
- C. What we wear is not decided by the wisdom or desires of men.
- D. Modesty extends beyond just our clothing.
 - 1. Modest behavior in elders (1 Timothy 3:2)
 - a. Titus 2:2 – In his life
 - b. 1 Timothy 3:4-5 – In his home
 - c. 1 Timothy 3:2, 7 – In the community (1 Pet. 3:15-16)
 - d. Hebrews 13:7 – In the congregation
 - 2. Modest behavior in all Christians (1 Peter 2:11-12)
 - a. Romans 13:13 – In life (1 Peter 4:3)
 - b. Colossians 3:18-21 – In the home
 - c. Colossians 4:5 – In the community
 - d. Ephesians 4:16 – In the congregation

IV. The Christian and Clothing

- A. The Bible's teaching on modesty concerns two specific areas.
 - 1. First, the covering of one's nakedness
 - 2. Second, attire that draws undue attention to one's self
- B. The principle of this second idea of modesty means that a Christian should always present himself or herself as a follower of Christ.
- C. Notice the things that are mentioned in these passages.
 - 1. Braided hair
 - 2. Gold, pearls, costly array
 - 3. Clothing (1 Peter 3:3; cf. Gen. 38:14-16; Prov. 7:10)
 - 4. Makeup (2 Kings 9:30)
- D. Are any of these things wrong in and of themselves?
 - 1. The answer is, "No."
 - 2. However, they can be wrong.
 - a. If we put our trust in them (Ezekiel 16:9ff)
 - b. If they draw us away from God (Jeremiah 2:32; Exodus 35:22-23; Matthew 6:25-34)
 - c. If they represent something ungodly

- d. If they draw undue attention to one's self
- E. Consider some modern day applications of this principle.
 - 1. Tattoos (cf. Leviticus 19:28; 1 Kings 18:28; Galatians 6:17)
 - a. Found among pagan societies
 - i. Rejected by Judaism (*no burial in cemetery of Orthodox Jews*)
 - ii. Rejected by Christianity (*pagans were encouraged to cease the practice*)
 - iii. Rejected by Islam
 - iv. In all three, viewed as a desecration of the perfect creation of God
 - b. Historically associated with three things
 - i. Criminal punishment
 - ii. Social standing in the tribe
 - iii. Idolatry / worship of false gods
 - c. Even today, associated with rebellious attitude, promiscuity, superstition, etc.
 - 2. Piercings
 - 3. Body manipulation
- F. Some important principles to consider:
 - 1. The Christian's body belongs to the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Romans 14:7-9; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:20).
 - 2. The Christian's purpose is to save souls – and, he must to nothing that will hinder that effort.
 - 3. The Christian must be different from the world.

Conclusion:

- 1. How would Jesus dress?
- 2. Remember, part of the shame of the crucifixion was the “nakedness” of the criminal (cf. John 19:23-24; Hebrews 12:2).
- 3. What does your clothing reveal about your character?
- 4. Are you clothed with salvation (Galatians 3:26-27)?