

The Christian's Apparel --- Inside and Out

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Introduction: The battle to conform our lives to God's will always begins in the heart.

- A. When a heart is tender to God's will, the outward practice in time will change.
(Acts 10:32)
- B. However when there is a desire only to appear to be a servant of God before men, there will be areas which are off limits to God. (Gal 1:10; 6:12, 14)
- C. The purpose of this lesson is two-fold.
 - 1. To understand the will of God in the kind of clothes we wear.
 - 2. To test our hearts as to whom we are really serving.

I. Our apparel tells others something about us.

- A. Our society well recognizes this point.
 - 1. This is behind the billions spent in the fashion industry!
 - 2. We may be "wearing a sign" and be unaware of it.
- B. The Bible clearly affirms this too. (1 Tim 2:9-10) KJV
"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest** apparel, with **shamefacedness** and **sobriety**; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; {10} But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."
 - 1. **Modest** - (kosmos) - of good behavior, well arranged, seemly.
 - 2. **Shamefacedness** - (aidos) - perhaps..through the idea of downcast eyes; a sense of shame or honor, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect.
 - 3. **sobriety** - (sophrosune) 1) soundness of mind 2) self-control
- B. A Godly woman is not to be seeking attention but rather have a meek and quiet spirit. (1 Pet 3:3-4)
 - 1. We face tremendous pressures from the world to conform. (Ex. High School)
 - 2. Today immorality is openly encouraged and praised. The present day homosexual movement has an enormous impact on the fashion industry.
 - 3. God made men and women different therefore you will see emphasis towards women in these areas. Men are very stimulated by sight. (Mt 5:27-30)
 - 4. Women you may be wearing clothing that is an invitation to ungodliness and not be aware of it! Sadly some are aware. (Prov 7:10; Gen 38:13-15) (Ex. Fish)
 - 6. We need fathers to take a strong stand in these areas! Do you give in?

II. We live in a society that has lost its shame.

- A. Our ability to be ashamed is a powerful tool in the Lord's hand.
 - 1. **Shame** - "A painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety which appears in the countenance by blushing."
 - 2. We do not like to feel shame, it is painful! But it is better to feel the pain of our conscience **before** an action, that **after** an action!
 - 3. Our shame is a product of our teaching and experience, either good or bad!
(Rom 6:21-23)
- B. Why Do Men Feel Shame?
 - 1. Because of the **knowledge we have of right and wrong.**

- a. It is very common for new converts to say: "I never knew it was wrong!"
 - b. Because of a lack of knowledge, they had no shame.
- 2. Because of the **knowledge of others**.
 - a. The **knowledge of other people**.
 - b. The **knowledge of God (2 Cor 7:9-10)**.
- C. The Bible teaches that nakedness should produce shame in us.
 - 1. The Bible has always expected men and women to be ashamed in their nakedness. (**Rev 3:17-18**)
 - 2. Shame however is something that can be lost! (**Jer 6:15; 8:12**)
 - 3. We are facing a problem in the church where men and women are making judgments on how they feel and not on the word of God! This is a mark of apostasy! (Ex. The clothing at "liberal" churches.)
- D. What is "nakedness" according to the Bible?
 - 1. (**Gen 2:25**) - Adam and Eve were naked when they had **no clothes**.
 - 2. (**Gen 3:7, 10-11**) - They were **still naked** when they made the equivalent of men's swimming trunks!
 - 3. (**Gen 3:21**) - They were no longer naked when God made them "tunics of skin". These are defined as: "generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees" (v. 21; Gesenius, Hebrew & Chaldee Lexicon, 420).
 - 4. "God replaced their shorts with garments covering from the shoulders down to the knees to cover the shame of their nakedness."
 - 5. (**Ex 28:41-42; Isa 47:2-3**) - God was very concerned with improper clothing that still left one naked! How much was covered? Look at the passages!
 - 6. Have you lost your shame concerning nakedness?
- C. Why do some men not feel shame?
 - 1. By sinking deeper into sin. (**1 Tim 4:2; Eph 4:19**)
 - 2. Do you remember the first time that: you had a social drink... Told a lie?
 - 3. Have you ever asked of someone: "How did he/she get like that?"

III. There are other things that speak of our character.

- A. The Christian is also to respect human customs when they are more restrictive than God's laws. (Ex. Red Dress in the 20's and 30's)
- B. Our emphasis on material things. (**1 Tim 2:9-10; Jas 2:2-7**)
 - 1. Who do we praise and seek to know?
 - 2. Are we caught up in the pursuit of clothes and homes?
- C. Our hair also speaks as do our clothes. (**1 Cor 11:14-15**)
- D. The use of our tongues. (**Mt 15:19-20**)

Conclusion: What is really in your heart?

- A. Be honest, what do you think of when you hear such a lesson? (**Jn 3:19-21**)
 - 1. When we cannot study these things we are fighting God, not men.
 - 2. Please do not view these things as "traditional views within the church."
- B. Please fight your sensitivity and defensiveness and seek out the will of God.
 - 1. Ask questions of Godly men and women.
 - 2. Brethren let us show patience with one another in these areas! (**Rom 15:1**)