

Modesty

What do we believe the word means? A dictionary defines modesty as: "The state or quality of being modest, the reserve or propriety in speech, dress, or behavior."

From Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English

Language we quote:

"4. In females, *modesty* has the like character as in males; but the word is used also as synonymous with chastity, or purity of manners. In this sense, *modesty* results from purity of mind, or from the fear of disgrace and ignominy fortified by education and principle.

Unaffected *modesty* is the sweetest charm of female excellence, the richest gem in the diadem of their honor."

In this little article we want to consider "dress," and particularly for women as they are the most used and abused of the two sexes, the most exploited because of the nature of human sexuality.

And this is an introduction to a 40 page booklet entitled "A Woman's Dress," available free from my web site which goes into detail about this most important subject.

I began that teaching by asking "How important is this subject, one might ask? Well, after many years of contemplation and consideration, I believe it is

of utmost importance because *how women dress is the expression of the sexual morality of people;* and, therefore, is the most significant factor in determining the sexual behavior of the church, the salt of the earth, which influences the whole world."

"A person's sexual behavior is a tremendous factor in determining one's relationship to God, and conversely, one's relationship to God determines one's sexual behavior."

Many years ago when I felt led to write on this subject, I asked the Lord where in His word does He give us instructions concerning this.

This was important as so many Christians believe and act differently concerning this, and so much teaching is from traditions, customs, and cultures, and is not taught from good expounding of the Word of God. Within an hour He gave me the answer by leading me to the beginning where He dealt with this knowing of the importance of sex and how it would affect mankind.

When Adam and Eve were without sin, they were naked and innocent. But after they sinned, they immediately felt guilty "**and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.**"

But before they were even cast from the Garden of Eden because of their sin, God dealt with the problem of sexuality in man's condition of then having a fallen, sinful nature. And here's where we find God's answer for dress, for both men and women, before there were children or any other people on the face of the earth. We read: "**The LORD God made garments (coats KJV) of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.**" (Gen. 3:21 NAS) Most versions translate what God did by either the word "garment" or "coat" but neither word reveals what God actually did. But the Hebrew word is "**kethoneth**" and is properly translated "**tunic**" and is so translated in other scriptures (Gen. 37:3; Ex. 28:2-4; 2 Sam. 13:18) and tells us exactly what God did and what we need to know. Any child from a Christian parent can draw you a picture of Mary and Joseph, and you'll see them dressed properly in tunics which were the godly custom from Adam until Jesus and beyond for centuries. A tunic is a long, loose fitting garment from the neck to the ankles, and is still worn today in many Middle Eastern countries. It is modest. It covers those areas of the body that stimulate lust. Namely, the breasts, buttocks, and legs. Even the secular world recognizes this and uses women's bodies for everything

they can. But your body belongs to the Lord. We are told: "you are not your own . . . therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Pornography is rampant, even among church people, and the internet has seduced multitudes away from a holy walk with the Lord that is imperative if one wants to be with the Lord forever. The words of Jesus Himself warn us of not taking care of ourselves. He warns that anyone looking on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart, and that our righteousness must exceed that of the very religious leaders of His day if we expect to enter the Kingdom of God. (Mt. 5) He tells us Himself in the seven letters to the churches that we must overcome and listen to the Spirit if we want to enter back into the Paradise of God. If we are lukewarm, He will vomit us out of His mouth! (Rev. 2 & 3) Beloved, this is serious business, how we dress and affect other people.

Paul wrote: "**women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense**" (1 Tim. 2:9 HCS), and I expound on this verse in my booklet.

It is disgusting how men and women wear tight and revealing clothing, and tight pants that leave nothing to the imagination. How worldly and provocatively lustful!

Beloved, God has called us to a life of holiness. He says:

"13Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16because it is written, 'YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.'"

(1 Peter 1:13-16 NAS)

And again, "**Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord**" (Heb, 12:14).

Beloved, we must decide who we are going to fear. Are we going to fear God or man? Jesus warned us. "**But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!**" (Lk. 12:5)

Too many Christians are concerned with what others think, what their friends or church fellowship thinks. How others dress. Not what God says!

Too many pastors will not teach on anything that might upset their little kingdom. God warned us of this day when men will tickle the ears of their

listeners instead of teaching sound doctrine. He said:

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth" (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Beloved, earnestly pray about this. Read and study more. Your eternity is at stake, your eternal reward or loss. If you would like to read my booklet, "A Woman's Dress," please go to my web site and you can read and download the teaching free. The cover portrays women in various modest dress for our culture. After prayer, you can email this track or the booklet to those you feel led. Please pray for yourself and the entire body of Christ. God bless you.

Contact us if you would like any further help.

Other teachings are also available free at:

www.JohnRothacker.org

John Rothacker Ministries
P.O. Box 3219
Columbus, Ohio 43210