# **Does God Care How We Dress?**

**Introduction:** I Timothy 2:9-10 The way women dress is a Bible subject and therefore a concern of every Godly woman. Though the Bible emphasizes a woman's dress and a man's lusting with his eyes, what is said of one gender equally applies to the other.

### I) Public Nakedness

- \* Public nakedness is viewed by God as shameful after the sin in Eden.
- \* Genesis 3:6-10 After Adam and Eve were wearing aprons of fig leaves they still were regarded as naked (see v. 7).
- \* "Aprons" (Heb. "chagorah") covering the mid-section
- \* "Coats" ("Kethoneth") vs. 21 covering commonly reaching to the knee
- \* Nakedness according to God can be absolute or relative Notice Job 22:6
- \* What does this say about some of the modern swim suits? If you feel they are adequate covering, what more could you remove?
- \* Would you be embarrassed to have a man walk into your room and see you in your underwear? How about when you have the same amount of covering, but you are beside a pool or the seaside? Is this consistent?
- \* Nakedness is to be preserved and reserved for marriage Lev. 18:6-19

### II) Sensual Dress

- \* I Peter 4:3; Galatians 5:19
- \* **Lasciviousness** "that which tends to produce **lewd** emotions" "sensuality" "sexy".
- \* Provocative attire might include low-cut necklines, backless dresses, slit skirts, skin-tight pants, see-through blouses, mini-skirts, low riding jeans, exposed midriffs and navels, etc.
- \* "Leggy allure: our sexy denim skirt has a five-button slit for maximum exposure." (typical catalog description)
- \* Men sin when they lustfully and sexually look at a woman (5:27-28), but a woman may share in the sin if she through sensual attire causes him to stumble this way (Matthew 18:6).
- \* "The mini-skirt is symbolic of girls who want to seduce a man." (Mary Quant, mother of the mini-skirt)
- \* Christian women should not dress like prostitutes Proverbs 7:10. Is there a difference today?
- \* In prison, no visitors are allowed to wear halter tops, short shorts, low necklines, etc. Guess why? (See manual excerpt at end of this lesson).
- \* Once, 90% of police in a survey, attributed sex crimes to indecent dress.

# III) Immodest Apparel (without shamefastness and sobriety)

- \* I Timothy 2:9-10
- \* Modest well arranged, seemly, **respectable**, proper, becoming, fitting
- \* You can be clothed from head to foot and be immodestly dressed!
- \* Deliberately dressing out of fashion to draw attention to yourself might be

seen as immodest.

- \* Wearing special religious garments to be seen of men Matthew 23:5
- \* Gaudy, flamboyant, and extravagant excessive (I Peter 3:3-4)
- \* Shamefastness with a sense of shame, modestly reverent, the ability to blush, **reserved**, decent, pure.
- \* When a person does not toot his own horn or downplays his accomplishments, we say "you just being modest." The same should be true of a woman's adornment.
- \* This is the opposite of daring, bold, exhibition of the body
- \* Sobriety with **self-control**, sound judgment, **moderation**, within bounds.
- \* This is the thrust of the apostle's word...dressing modestly is explained as "not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire"
- \* Do you have bounds with the way you dress?

## **IV) Inappropriate Attire For Some Places**

- \* Matthew 22:11-12 Jesus used this analogy in a parable to teach a spiritual lesson. But the idea is a good one in everyday life. A Christian is aware of the customary dress of weddings, funerals and the like, and will try to accommodate.
- \* I Corinthians 14:23-24 In our church services, visitors can be impressed for good or bad by what they observe. Though no dress code for church assemblies has been legislated by God or man, an awareness of influence on others will cause us to consider how we appear. Especially those leading the assembly should not detract or distract by an overly casual dress, unless one cannot do otherwise. James 2:2-4 warns though not to show any partiality to the finely dressed in church assemblies.

# V) Some Additional Questions

- \* But no one will lust after my body. Are you sure? Even if that is so, we are to cover ourselves to please God. Remember Adam and Eve? There were yet no other people.
- \* But won't covering myself better draw undue attention to myself? It may be true that covering yourself adequately will set you apart from the world, but there are limits to which we can go in trying to blend in with them. Obviously we cannot go nude at a nude beach so as to not draw attention...you get my point.
- \* What about children naked? It is understood that small children have an innocence as to their nakedness for awhile, but it would be advisable that parents not wait long to begin to instill a sense of privacy about public nakedness.
- \* Do I have to always be concerned about what others may see? God seems to think so. Exodus 20:26

Conclusion: Worldly women dress to be chased - Godly women dress to be chaste.

\* There is a big difference!



## Prison Visitors Dress Restrictions

Over the years, I have visited and conducted Bible studies with people incarcerated in prisons many times. It was interesting to me to see the following excerpt from the general information manual of the Waupun Correctional Institution, detailing the restrictions for visitors dress.

The following apparel is considered inappropriate and will result in the denial of visits:

- (1) Transparent clothing;
- (2) Shorts which are shorter than fingertip length (i.e., visitor standing naturally ~with arms straight down the side of the body and fingers extended);
- (3) Skirts or dresses shorter than fingertip length plus three inches (should a reasonable doubt exist, a ruler will be provided to the visitor to enable the visitor to demonstrate compliance);
- (4) Strapless, tube and halter tops;
- (5) Tops which expose the midriff;
- (6) Spandex or Spandex-like and Lycra or Lycra-like athletic pants, aerobic/exercise tights or leotards;
- (7) *Underwear worn on the outside*;
- (8) Clothing with revealing holes or tears above fingertip level (i.e., visitor standing naturally with arms straight down the side of the body and fingers extended);
- (9) Clothing or accessories with obscene or profane writing, images or pictures.

Visitors wearing gang or club related clothing or insignia may be denied entrance into the institution. This includes, but is not limited to, motorcycle jackets bearing club logos and footwear.

These restrictions apply equally to men and women.