
CHRISTIAN DRESS: Distinct and Modest

GOD DEMANDS CLEAR DISTINCTION! In spite of what some may say, we are not riding a "hobby." This matter of dress has great implications for Christians and the styles of the world are getting worse almost by the year. God has set up strict guidelines for His people. The only rulebook we have as Christians is the Word of God. The rule is not what is in style, what is comfortable, etc. God requires that one is not to look like or wear that which pertains to the opposite sex. The Bible is very clear: "**The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment; for all that do so are an abomination to the Lord God.**" Deut. 22:5. Now, I know that is in the Old Testament, but the principles of God are always the same. God makes it clear in the New Testament that He wants men to look like men and women to look like women - you have the same principle in I Cor.11. So, Men are to look like men, act like men, dress like men, etc. Women are to look like women, etc. We are not singling out women, some men dress improperly, but the truth is, the above command of God is largely disobeyed by women who wear pants, shirts, jackets, ties, like men. Now, we don't expect worldly people to understand or conform to God's rule, but Christian women, "**women professing godliness,**" should certainly obey God. There are many arguments to justify women wearing men's clothing (I think I've heard them all), but it is still wrong.

The whole movement to reverse the roles or to create a unisex look is of the devil. Make no mistake about it, a great deal of the masculine dress on women which is so common today has been fostered by the rebellious women's lib movement. This is also contrary to God's Word and no Christian woman should be influenced by its fanatical notions. The man is to be the head of the woman and she is to be in subjection to him (Eph. 5, etc.). This teaching from God's Word is very unpopular today, but that doesn't make any difference. God's Word is the last word! Just because everybody, or at least most everybody, is doing it does not make it right. Sad to say, there are few Fundamental churches where one finds any kind of Scriptural dress code enforced today. If you don't believe me, just visit a few. Another serious and related problem in our Fundamental Churches is that most homes are run by the wives or children, not by the husband. Finding Scripturally qualified elders and deacons is getting extremely difficult. Tragically, few seem to care.

MODESTY IS THE ONLY POLICY. Furthermore, God says women are to dress in "**modest apparel.**" **I Tim.2:9.** Incidentally, it is significant to note that God told the preacher, Timothy, to tell the women to dress "**modestly.**" It is the Pastor's responsibility to inform the women on modest or proper clothing. Now, some women say that slacks are more modest than dresses. That is rarely, if ever, true, but that's not the issue! God says do not wear clothes that pertain to a man. The truth is most all the slacks you see on women are tight fitting and very revealing and it is provocative to a man's baser thoughts. Christian women, are you still unaware that the garment designers purposely design women's clothing so as to appeal to a man's baser nature. In *How to Marry the Man of Your Choice*, Margaret Kent tells women that clothing can be a powerful way to manipulate men. Her advice includes *tight clothing, clothing that follows the natural form of your body and other suggestive garments.* Christian woman, is this something that God is pleased about?

We must say a word here about women wearing low cut, tight fitting sweaters and blouses, see-through blouses, slit skirts, short skirts, etc. It is quite common today to see women wearing T-shirts and similar tops; this is anything but immodest. One of our men said he can't help seeing this in the work place, etc. by he shouldn't have to see it in Church. A word about slit skirts. One preacher asked a group of young men in a Bible college if they were sexually tempted by women in slit skirts, and every one of them admitted they were. I am sure that all but a few very naive women know that certain portions of a woman's body are appealing to a man's natural instincts. Why else is so much feminine flesh displayed on TV, billboards, magazines, etc. Surely, it is a sin for a woman to disobey God and appeal to the baser instincts in men. If a man lusts after you he is guilty, but are you not guilty if you dress so as to entice him? Was not Bathsheba as guilty as David for displaying herself on the rooftop of her house knowing full well it was in the sight of the palace? God says, "**Whatever ye do...do all to the glory of God.**" **I Cor.10:31.** That includes your dress! Do you want to please God --- or appeal to a man's old nature?

PLEASE DON'T ARGUE WITH ME. The truth is, your argument is not with me but with God. He is the One who said women are not to wear a man's clothing (men are not to dress in feminine style). He said that you are to dress modestly. I am simply trying to get you to obey and please God. It's not a matter of convenience, comfort, etc.

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The issue is, will you obey God? Some ladies, waxing very spiritual, say we are not under law... That is true! But God's command to keep the sexes separate and in the right relationship transcends all dispensations. We are not under law, but shall we lie, steal or commit adultery? The principles of separateness of the sexes and modesty are for all time. In Cor.11 God speaks about ladies' coverings and long hair on men making a distinction between the sexes.

THE PROBLEM OF LEADERSHIP. Departure from God and His Word may start in the pew, but it is the pulpit that controls things. We have many Pastors who simply will not take any stand that is unpopular or that will cost them some followers. Now, I do not like to lose people, but is it right to disobey God in order to keep them. Many Pastors not only refuse to stand upon Biblical principles, but even allow their wives and daughters to go along with the current styles. Many have the idea that disobeying God in an area like this is not as bad as teaching some false doctrine. But what is the difference? You are contradicting God by permitting conduct that He forbids. Furthermore, one compromise always leads to another. That's why we have Roman Catholicism, modernism and new evangelicalism, etc. You are foolish to think you can pick and choose which of God's commandments you are going to obey.

THE DRESS DOWN PHENOMENON. Man is a great faddist; he must always have something new or different. The dress down look started in the world but soon got into the churches, including Fundamental ones. People say, "Well, the times and styles have changed." They certainly have! Is that cause for God's people to follow the worldly crowd. It is appalling the way some preachers allow people to come to church. Is it wrong, or asking too much to require that Christians dress up when going to the house of God to worship the Lord? Nobody thought so a few years ago; believers and unbelievers always wore their "Sunday" best to church. Many believers go to church looking as though they were going to a ball game or out to wash the car. I am constantly amazed how people invariably wear their dress up clothes for a wedding or a funeral, both the saved and unsaved. Recently, while doing door-to-door visitation, one man came to the door in a formal suit. He said that he had just come from a funeral for a friend. Why is it right to go to a funeral all dressed up to pay your respects to a dead man who doesn't know how you are dressed,

but not to worship the living God? People say, "Why do you make such a big fuss over such a little thing?" It is not little! Sensual dress and undress is getting worse all the time. It's ungodly and ought not to be condoned, much less practiced by Christians. The feminist and unisex movements are also gaining advocates. What I don't understand is the professing Christians who make a fuss and leave a Fundamental church because they cannot wear slacks, shorts, or sensual clothing. We have had many leave over this issue and many more who attend once or twice, but as soon as they see we have a dress code they are gone.

WORLDLY PEOPLE HAVE MORE SENSE. Some worldly people have more sense than carnal Christians (Yes, Christians who want to dress and act like the world are just plain carnal). Read the following; it was given by Thomas F. Eaves, Sr. in *Pulpit Helps*: "Several weeks ago I visited a youth development center (prison for young people) in Tennessee. Except for the guards and high chain link fence, one would envision himself on a college campus. The bulletin board had a bold notice: '**Visitors must be appropriately dressed. Underwear and bras must be worn, no halter tops, no shorts, no revealing clothing.**' I commented on this to my guide and he said, 'Inappropriate clothing causes problems.'" Even the worldling knows that "revealing clothing" causes problems. As long as man has an old nature, it will! It is obvious Christians still have the old nature. I think of the words of Jesus: "**The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light.**" It is often true, but it ought not be.

THINK ABOUT THIS! Are you a blood bought child of God? Do you really love the Lord Jesus Christ who paid the price for your sins? If you say, "Yes," how can you deliberately disobey and grieve Him in this or any other matter? His Word says women are to dress modestly - i.e. "with decency." Will you humble yourself and submit to His wisdom and authority? Let's dress to please God - not ourselves or anyone else. The attitude that says nobody's going to tell me how to dress, where to go, what I can watch, etc. is nothing but pride and self will and has its origin in the devil, that monster of pride and self will. Remember, the Bible says, "**...ye ought to walk to please God.**" **I Thess. 4:1.** Believers should be as far from the world as possible. The world sinks lower with every passing day; how sad some professing Christians want to sink with it.

The **CORNERSTONE CHALLENGE**

September 2001

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