

# Modest Apparel

## Introduction:

1. Christians are called “saints.” Eph. 2:1-3 We “once lived in the lusts of our flesh.”
  - a. Our dress may seem tame compared to the world’s extremes of indecency.
  - b. But have we stopped to look at ourselves in comparison to the Bible?
2. “Women used to dress like old mother Hubbard, but now they dress more like her cupboard.”
3. This is not merely a ladies issue – it is a godliness matter for Men and Women!
4. 2 Cor. 3:2 “Ye are our epistle... known and read of all men...” What do people see?

## **I. God’s Standard Is Universal**

- A. Acts 17:30 “all men everywhere”
- B. 2 Pet. 1:3 “seeing his divine power hath granted unto us all things...”
- C. Different countries may have different types of clothing, and use different fabrics, and use various colors – but Christians around the world must dress with modesty.

## **II. Nakedness Displayed Is Shameful**

- A. Is. 47:3 “Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen...”
- B. Rev. 3:18 Garments versus nakedness used to illustrate their spiritual disgrace.
- C. John 21:7 See ASV footnote. “Nakedness” is not limited to complete nudity.

## **III. God’s Guidelines**

- A. Gen. 3:7 Adam & Eve’s attempt
  1. “sewed fig-leaves [not leaf] together, and made themselves aprons.”
  2. Gen. 3:21 “And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins, and clothed them.”
    - a. With “waist aprons” they were still unclothed by God’s definition.
    - b. “coats” (kuttonet) – “**tunic, a long shirt-like garment**” (TWOT, Vol. I, 459)
- B. Ex. 28:42 Priests were to cover their nakedness.
  1. “They shall reach from the hips to the thighs” (ESV)
  2. If the “nakedness” of the thighs are covered – then – to the knees.
- C. John 19:23 Jesus wore a one-piece tunic.
  1. “It resembled the Roman ‘tunic,’ corresponding most nearly to our ‘long shirt,’ reaching below the knees always, and, in case it was designed for dress occasions, reached almost to the ground.” (ISBE, **Dress**, 877)
  2. Jesus covered his body from shoulders to knees.
- D. Thus, God’s guideline throughout the centuries is from shoulders to knees.

## **IV. Application To Modern Attire**

- A. Rom. 12:1-2 The Christians must not give these or similar foolish cop-outs:
  1. “This is all I could find at the stores.”
  2. “It is just the fashion and I don’t want to stick out or seem weird.”

B. Consider these problems:

1. Coverage:
  - a. When you sit down – does it come up above the knee?
  - b. When you bend or reach does it come up and reveal midriff – as with shirts that barely reach the waistline?
  - c. Is it too loose allowing a view – up pant legs or through sleeveless armholes? When you bend slightly does your neckline fall away from your chest?
  - d. Is the neckline or backline down low? Does it display your cleavage or back?
  - e. Are your underwear straps showing?
  - f. Guys, are your pants so baggy and low that your underwear is showing?
2. Revealing and suggestive
  - a. Is your top tight enough to hug every curve? But you say: “I am fully covered!”
  - b. Guys and gals, are your pants tight and thus showing clearly your form?
  - c. Is the material so sheer that your undergarments are visible?
  - d. Are your dark garments showing underneath your light clothing?
  - e. Do you have writing on your clothing that calls attention to a particular part of your anatomy?

**V. God Calls For A Distinction Between The Genders**

- A. Deut. 22:5
- B. Restroom signs depicting a man and a woman are becoming less meaningful.
- C. 1 Tim. 2:9-10 Ladies be feminine.

**VI. Occasions Of Stumbling**

- A. Luke 17:1-2
- B. Matt. 5:27-28

**VII. Parents Must Teach And Enforce Propriety**

- A. Eph. 6:4 Fathers
  1. Fathers must have the conviction and backbone to insist on what is proper for their daughters and wives.
  2. Talk about peer pressure – often today, parents don’t have the conviction nor courage to stand against “teen pressure.”
- B. Tit. 2:3-5 “chaste” (αἰγνός) – “*pure from carnality, chaste, modest*” (Thayer, 8)

Conclusion:

1. Luke 8:27, 35 “... he had worn no clothes...”; “...clothed and in his right mind...”
2. Modest clothing on a woman encourages men to treat her like a lady, and not as an object. Modestly dressed men have attire in keeping with their devotion to godliness.
3. Our goal must be to please God and not to follow the world’s ways.

George E. Jensen