

Key Passages and Questions on Modesty and Dress

Some Key Passages to Ponder:

Gen 3:7, 21 ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Ex 28:42 And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs.

Is 47:1-3 "Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; Sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called Tender and delicate. ² Take the millstones and grind meal. Remove your veil, Take off the skirt, Uncover the thigh, Pass through the rivers. ³ Your nakedness shall be uncovered, Yes, your shame will be seen; I will take vengeance, And I will not arbitrate with a man."

Deut 22:5 A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so *are* an abomination to the LORD your God.

Prov 7:10 And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.

1 Thes 4:1-8 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

1 Tim 2:9-15 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, ¹⁰ but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

Titus 2:3-5 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

1 Pet 3:1-6 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear. ³ Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward -- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel -- ⁴ rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Some Key Questions to Ask:

1. Does this bring honor and glory to the Lord? (1 Cor 10:31)
2. Does this express spiritual care for others? (1 Cor 13:1-7)
3. How does a harlot dress to draw attention to herself? (see Prov 7:10)
4. Does this promote lust? (1 Th 4:1-8; Titus 2:3-5) What promotes lust?
 - Skin: Short is not modest. Concealing vs revealing. Conceal.
 - Shape: Tight is not modest. Form hiding vs form-fitting.
5. Does this draw attention to myself in any way? (1 Cor 10:31)
 - Through sensuality? (see 1 Thes 4:1-8; 1 Tim 2:9)
 - Through excess? (see 1 Tim 2:9-10; 1 Peter 2:1-6)
6. Does it feed your lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, or the pride of life? (1 John 2:15-17)
7. Does it feed another's lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, or the pride of life? (1 John 2:15-17)
8. Does it cause shame? Should it? (1 John 2:28)
9. Does it promote the world, or the things in the world? (1 John 2:15-17)
10. Does this promote excellence?
11. Does it build others up spiritually? (1 Cor 10:23; Rom 14:19; 1 Thes 5:11)
12. Do my dress habits depict God's character and holiness? (1 Peter 1:13-16)
13. Does this promote gender distinction? For men, is it manly? For women, is it womanly? (Deut 22:5; 1 Cor 11:2-16)
14. Does it defraud your brother (1 Thes 4:3-8)
15. Could this cause my brother to stumble? (Rom 14:1-23)
16. If another woman were to wear this outfit, would my husband be tempted?
17. Does it promote and encourage purity? (Titus 2:5)
18. Does it evidence and illustrate your submission to my husband? (1 Cor 11:2-16)
19. Does this meet with my husband's approval? (Eph 5:22-23)
20. Does it evidence and illustrate your one-man or one-woman commitment to your spouse? (What are you advertising? Taken, or looking?) (1 Tim 5:9)
21. Are there different types of dress for different types of occasions?
22. With what did God cloth Adam and Eve after the fall? (What did He make for them?)

Why do I wear this? Who do I wear this for?

To what am I drawing attention to when I walk into a room?

What am I broadcasting? (Gender, sexuality, purity, humility, obedience, etc.)