

The Gospel Truth

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE MISSION FIELD WORLDWIDE.

“CLEANSE FIRST”

Jesus looked on the scribes and Pharisees and admonished them: “Ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. . . . cleanse first that which is within . . . that the outside of them may be clean also. . . . Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity” (Matthew 23:25-28 KJV).

The Pharisees dressed in such a way that they might look righteous and holy before the people. Jesus knew their hearts and instructed them to “cleanse first” the inward man. Far more important than the type of clothing is the condition of heart before God. Some people today do as the self-righteous Pharisees of yesterday. They not only seek for justification through their good works and modest clothing but they glory in it. Jesus taught that it was not the outward things that defile a man but the things which “come

forth from the heart” (Matthew 15:17-20). If the heart is not right with God, all outward standards and works will be in vain. An outward standard to hide unrighteousness in the heart is hypocrisy.



Christ did not negate the importance of dressing modestly. Rather, He emphasized the fact that it is the heart that needs cleansing first, then the outside would be clean also. Modesty and godly dress is imputed to a person for righteousness only when it is the fruit of a clean heart. People are not saved or justified by

their works but by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Once the heart has been changed through the power of Jesus Christ, the child of God is to follow after holiness in every aspect of life, or he will not see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

The salvation of the soul brings radical change. “Being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” (Romans 6:22). Sin, pride, lust, immodesty, etc. is cleansed and put away. “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in

righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:21-24).

The preponderance of scripture focuses on the importance of the inward man, for when the inward man is in conformity to the spirit of Christ, the resulting outward fruit will be holy. The Bible does not spell out every

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WHAT THE BIBLE Teaches About...

Word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 24:35

Relationship of Love

Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:21-23; 1 John 4:7-11

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10

New Birth

John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:1-4;

Eph. 2:1, 5-6

Freedom From Sin

1 John 5:18; Matt. 1:21; John 8:11

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:2; Acts 15:8-9; Acts 1:8

Holiness

Luke 1:73-75; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16;

Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:22

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; John 18:36

The Church

Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col 1:18

Unity

John 17:20-23; Gal 3:28; Rev. 18:2-4

Ordinances

Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 26:26-30;

1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:14-17

Divine Healing

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

Matt. 19:5-6; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3;

1 Cor. 7:10-11

Outward Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:14-15; Deut. 22:5

End of Time

2 Peter 3:7-12; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10;

Matt 25:31-46

Pacifism

Luke 6:27-29; Luke 18:20

Worship

John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 3:17

Great Commission

Mark 16:15

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detail of life, but it does address the principles necessary to glorify God. The foundation upon which decisions of dress and conduct are to be made is the holy principles of the Word. While worldly people rationalize and try to justify themselves, the Spirit will lead every honest, seeking individual unerringly.

The God of Heaven dwells in those who are of a “contrite and humble spirit” (Isaiah 57:15). The apostle Peter instructs the child of God to be “clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). As the heart is humble before God, so the outward man should reflect that inward humility. “*Let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price*” (1 Peter 3:4).

Holiness is beautiful before the Lord. He is to be worshipped and honored with a holy, dedicated temple. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

—mws

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

The Gospel Truth periodical is published in the name of the Lord for all people of all lands in the interest of establishing and encouraging them in the truth of God's Word. This publication teaches and promotes the truths of the Bible that have been established since the time of Christ and the apostles.

The Word of God is the singular, acceptable rule of faith. It teaches salvation and deliverance from sin through the atonement of Jesus Christ; a subsequent infilling of the Holy Spirit to lead, direct and empower; practical holiness in every area of life; and the unity and oneness of God's people. Acceptable service to God is through a personal relationship of love founded in truth.

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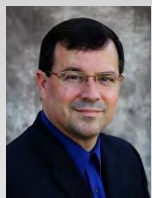
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Editorial



It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. —Jude 1:3

The burden for this quarter is on the subject of “Outward Appearance or Christian Dress.” God still has a standard of dress, regardless of many going the way of the world. The margin of difference between God’s people and the world will grow as wickedness increases in these last days. May the Lord help us to contend for the faith that was delivered through the Word of God. I challenge the reader to hold fast to sound doctrine. If there are things you do not understand, be very careful about removing the ancient landmarks which have stood the test of time.

The graces of the inner man are of far more importance than the outward appearance. It is a great reproach to see people revel in their modesty while conducting themselves with carnality, pride, and a lack of love. However, the outward appearance is a part of life and the scripture addresses it. Everything we do should be about our personal relationship with the Lord.

People so often get offended when outward appearance is preached about, especially when specifics are mentioned. It is sad when even people that believe in holy living shy away from addressing these issues. It does take wisdom, but there is rarely a “convenient” time. How can people learn of God’s plan if it is not taught? As more people in congregations live substandard lives, it is increasingly difficult for pastors to teach on these issues. Some things may seem insignificant, and many say it does not matter; but when people begin to let down and allow small compromises, the end result is often spiritual disaster.

I am reminded of the neck-tie issue in the Church of God movement. A split occurred (1910-1913) where one of the issues was the necktie. Some were unwilling to accept a piece of cloth around the neck that had no utility. Others advocated for its use to “fit in” with society. While a little thing in and of itself, people who accepted the neck-tie began compromising many other issues of truth very quickly. Today there is relatively no practical standard of Biblical modesty amongst them. It is vital for the principle of truth to be considered. We observe the fashion today of women in the U. S. wearing enormous neck scarves for the purpose of adornment. In light of a necklace or neck-tie, what is the principle? The principle, motivation, and spirit behind something is more important than the article of clothing itself.

We do not want to fall prey to legalism nor to fanaticism but live a spiritually balanced life. There may be some minor differences in the outward standard of saints, but I do not think we will be too far apart if we all follow the clear principles of the Word. It is a blessing to live an humble, modest life in Christ Jesus. May the Lord give us all peace and the courage to stand true in this dark world and live pleasing to the Savior.

Michael W. Smith

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WELCOME

The saints of God welcome people to their worship services who are not fully measured to the Biblical standard of modesty.

LEADERSHIP

It is required by the scripture for those who are in leadership to be blameless and examples of the flock in every area of life. Ministers, Sunday school teachers, song leaders, and deacons are to dress, not only at worship service but elsewhere, in a way that becomes holiness. Failure to live according to these scriptural teachings disqualifies one from a position of leadership.

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SUBJECT: OUTWARD APPEARANCE

Scripture Reading: *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.* —I Corinthians 6:19-20

Summary: Saints of God are to clothe themselves in modest, decent apparel and abstain from the wearing of jewelry and cosmetics. The outward appearance should be a reflection of inward humility and purity.

I. Importance of the Outward Man

- A. 1 Samuel 16:7 Man looketh on the outward appearance.
- B. Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world.

II. The Inward Man

- A. Matthew 15:17-20 Things which defile.
- B. Isaiah 57:15 Contrite and humble spirit.
- C. 1 Peter 5:5 Be clothed with humility.
- D. 1 Peter 3:4-5 The hidden man of the heart.

III. First Things First

- A. Ephesians 2:8-10 Saved by grace unto good works.
- B. Matthew 23:25-28 Cleanse first that *which is within*.

IV. Called to Holiness

- A. Hebrews 12:14 Follow holiness.
- B. Romans 6:22 Fruit unto holiness.
- C. Ephesians 4:21-24 Put on the new man.
- D. 1 Peter 2:9 A chosen generation, a peculiar people.

V. Bible Standard of Dress

- A. Genesis 3:7-10, 21 God clothed Adam & Eve.
- B. Isaiah 47:2-3 O.T. illustration of nakedness.

- C. John 21:7 Peter's nakedness.
- D. Deuteronomy 22:5 Gender appropriate.
- E. 1 Timothy 2:9 Modest apparel with shamefacedness. (1 Peter 3:3).
- F. 1 Timothy 4:12 Example in purity.

VI. Things of This World

- A. Romans 12:2 Be not conformed to this world.
- B. 1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world.

VII. Cosmetics and Jewelry

- A. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 Adornments forbidden. (1 Peter 3:3).
- B. Isaiah 3:16-24 Judgments of God. (Jeremiah 4:30).

VIII. Hair

- A. 1 Corinthians 11:14-15 Length.
- B. 1 Timothy 2:9, 1 Peter 3:3 Arranged with simplicity.

IX. Standard of Measurement

- A. 2 Corinthians 10:12, 18 Whom the Lord commendeth.
- B. John 12:48 Judged by the Word.
- C. Isaiah 62:10 Lift up a standard for the people.
- D. 1 John 5:3 The love of God.

Conclusion:

For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

—Psalm 149:4

THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE

Christian Dress

Modest: *Restrained by a sense of propriety; not forward or bold; Not loose or lewd. Decent; orderly. Moderate; not excessive or extreme; not extravagant.*

Sobriety: *Temperance or moderation; seriousness; sedateness; sober.*

Shamefaced: *Very modest; bashful or shy.*



Called Out of Darkness

The Church of God in this generation is still a holy nation. God's people are separate from the world as Christ Himself was in the world but not of it. Every child of God has been called "out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). It is not only a responsibility, but the privilege, of God's people to let their light shine that others might see the holiness of God (Matthew 5:14-16). Although many churches today have compromised the scriptural teaching on modesty and dress, God's Word has not changed. The world places much importance on clothes and appearance. There is great pressure on people today to dress fashionably or in ways that place the physical body on display. The Word of God gives instruction and guidance on issues of the outward appearance.

Why is Dress Important?

The dress and outward appearance of God's people is important because God said to "glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:20). 1 Samuel 16:7 is often quoted to try to prove that the outward appearance does not matter if the heart is right: "For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." While God indeed looks on the heart, Christians are called to be witnesses to people who cannot see the heart. People are often judged based on the outward appearance which many times reflects the condition of

one's heart, beliefs, priorities, and self-image. The clothes and appearance of a child of God should reflect and convey the message of the humility, purity, and holiness that God values. While saints should not build a golden calf to modesty, it is a doctrine of the Word; hence it should not just be tolerated but embraced.

What is Nakedness in the Bible?

In the very beginning, after Adam and Eve sinned, they realized they were naked. They immediately tried to cover themselves with aprons of fig leaves and then hid themselves because they were ashamed. One of the first things God did was to make coats of skin to clothe them more sufficiently (Genesis 3:7-10, 21). Nakedness in the scripture is not just being fully uncovered. Isaiah 47:2-3 illustrates that a woman was considered naked if her leg was bared and the thigh (that which is above the knee) was revealed. Consider the disciple, Peter, who was fishing. When he heard the Lord was there, "he girt *his* fisher's coat *unto him*, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea" (John 21:7). According to *Smith's Bible Dictionary*, both men and women of the time wore a close-fitting inner garment similar to a long shirt. One kind was without sleeves and reached to the knees, and another kind of inner garment reached to the wrists and ankles. There was a second tunic which was an outer garment that was longer than the inner

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The standard of dress for the child of God is one of modesty and simplicity.

garment. People were spoken of as naked if they were not wearing an outer garment or tunic. Hence, Peter, while not without clothes, when he saw the Lord made haste to put on his outer garment to be more fully clothed (see also 1 Samuel 19:24). These scriptures begin to reveal God's perspective on nakedness. The world is full of people who wear shorts, mini-skirts, or less. That is clearly contrary to God's Word and violates even the Old Testament where the standard was not as high as was given in the New Testament.

Differences of Gender

"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* abomination unto the LORD thy God" (Deuteronomy 22:5). While the above scripture most likely directly refers to the prohibition of a woman taking up the instruments of war, it is also a general precept that God hates the breaking down of the distinction between genders. Just because the modern day culture approves a certain practice, does not mean that God's blessings are upon it. Any form of dress that breaks down the distinction between male and female is an abomination to God. Society is working hard to blur the lines between not only the God-given role of male and female but also their appearance. The wearing of pants by women was a result of females leaving their God

-given roles. Not only is the practice a violation of God's plan, it violates the deeper plan of God for a man and woman's role in the home and in society. Similarly, in today's age, there is a move and trend for men to wear effeminate apparel. This is just as wrong.

Modesty Instructed

Paul gave Timothy very clear instruction in 1 Timothy 2:9 on how a godly woman should adorn herself. "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." The scripture is clear and it means what it says. The standard of dress for the child of God is one of modesty and simplicity. There is very little modesty and even less shamefacedness among professing Christian women. Men and women alike should not only have their bodies covered but clothing should be decent and not form-fitting. People are exposing their bodies or wearing tight-fitting clothes to reveal the shape of what is underneath. This should never be amongst God's people. A woman should wear "modest apparel" and something that is in keeping with the spirit of shamefacedness. Mini-skirts or skirts that do not comfortably fall well below the knee are immodest. Skirts with long slits, regardless of length, are intentionally designed to draw attention to the leg. This is not in keeping with the Word.

The scripture forbids the wearing of costly array. A saint should not wear articles of clothing that are flashy or flaunt wealth. The Word intimates here that clothing etc. should be simple and decorous. To "adorn" means to put in order or arrange. Hence, it indicates that sloppiness or slothfulness should not have a place in a Christian's appearance. Children of God should be orderly in dress, clean, and well-kept.

Modesty is Motivated by a Desire to Do God's Will

Fashions and styles come and go but the standard of God's word is unchanging. Paul charged the congregation at Rome: "be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove

what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2). A child of God does not want to grieve the heart of the Father and will strive for the holiness He calls for in the area of dress rather than emulate the world. Beware of what the world places value on, for surely it is not conforming to Christ. Evil is abounding and society is in a downward spiral. The child of God should stand aloof from its spirit and folly.

We are Not Driven by the Lusts of the World

“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:15-17). Much of the clothing today is geared to sex appeal and draws attention to the flesh. Not only women but also men are being pressured in society to dress according to fashion and to accentuate the flesh.



Clothes affect the way an individual feels and acts. Dress a child in different types of clothes and watch their response. Adults are no different and it is important that clothes are in keeping with the inner spirit that pleases the Lord. “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an

example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4:12). The saint of God should be adorned with that inward spirit of modesty which will then be lived out in practical applications.

Adornments and Jewelry

1 Timothy 2:9 clearly forbade the wearing of gold and pearls. This is again confirmed in 1 Peter 3:3: “Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel.” The judgments of God were placed against the daughters of Zion who were proud and walked and minced as they went. They wore various kinds of jewelry and God pronounced judgment against them (Isaiah 3:16-24). It is contrary to God’s will for people in this New Testament dispensation to wear jewelry and adornments—earrings, necklaces, rings, etc. It may not be gold or silver but it may be “soft jewelry” which is again contrary to the principle of simplicity and holiness. While there are other items not spelled out, God’s Word reaches every generation and covers every culture. Taking into account the Word, children of God should have spiritual discernment and be careful about falling in the trap of “things not specifically named in the Bible.”

Cosmetics and Makeup

Similarly, the use of make-up to enhance the appearance of face or body is not in keeping with a life of holiness. Foundation, lipstick, mascara, eyeliner, rouge, nail polish, false nails and lashes, French manicures and pedicures, tattoos, etc., which are so prevalent in the world, are of the flesh and in no way fall in the purview of shamefacedness or modesty. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. May God help His people not only to live this truth but to teach it by word and example to the children and young people.

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The saint of God should be adorned with that inward spirit of modesty which will then be lived out in practical applications.

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Hair Styles

Much attention is also given to hair styles. While different races of people have different types of hair, the scripture gives some guidelines. “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering” (1 Corinthians 11:14-15). God is well pleased with obedience to His Word and the scripture is clear that a man should have his hair short while a woman’s long hair (as God hath given) is her covering and her glory.

The way a man has his hair cut and the way a woman of God arranges her hair should be in keeping with modesty and simplicity. As quoted previously, plaiting or interweaving material or other items into the hair is forbidden.

Judge Not

The standard of God’s people must rise above the quickly falling standard of the world. Judgments should not be based upon others but upon the fixed standard of the Word of God, for it will judge us in the last day (John 12:48). Every child of God should seek to be led of the Spirit of God, remembering that the Spirit will never lead contrary to God’s Word. In an age of spiritual relativism, “we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend

Cast up the Highway;
Gather out the Stones;
Lift up a Standard for the People.



themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. . . . For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth” (2 Corinthians 10:12, 18). One must be careful about judging another’s salvation based on outward standards as there are people who have never been exposed to the truth of this doctrinal teaching. It is God’s will that all come to the understanding of this light.

Set For Yourself a Standard

It is paramount that saints have practical standards of holiness in their daily lives. Without a standard, a doctrine becomes an empty shell and eventually means nothing in practical application. The Bible is not specific on an exact dress or sleeve length. However, knowing that nakedness is that which is above the knee, it follows that a sound standard of application would be at least a three-quarter length dress and a similar standard of safety applied to sleeve length. More than ever,

Without a standard, a doctrine becomes an empty shell and eventually means nothing in practical application.

people need revelations from God so that this truth be personal. There is much compromise and confusion right among holiness people on some of these lines. Who will answer the call and instruction of God in Isaiah 62:10? “Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.”

Joy in Obedience

There is a highway of holiness that rises above the ways of this sinful world. The outward standard of holiness, as given by God, is beautiful. Modesty was never meant to be a bondage to people. Outward holiness is just one of the results of a pure heart and life. The commandments alone bring death, but the Spirit gives life and meaning to this Word. “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). It is a joy for a Christian to follow the Word of God. The benefits of obedience far outweigh any sacrifices that are made in service to the Lord. The outward appearance of God’s people should reflect their citizenship in the heavenly kingdom. —mws

Should I Wear It?

(Questions to ask about personal appearance)

- Why do I want to wear it?
- How does it make me feel?
- Is my body covered? Is it revealing or tight?
- Is it modest and decent?
- What image am I portraying to the world?
- Is it reflective of humility and simplicity?
- Is God pleased with it?

CULTURE



There are and will continue to be cultural differences in clothing styles from country to country and from generation to generation. While a specific style of dress is not mandated in the Word of God, a principle is given which supersedes all cultural practices. If a cultural dress standard violates God’s Word, then the Scripture takes precedence. A woman in the United States might wear a skirt and blouse, a woman in Malawi might wear a chitenje, and a sister from

Pakistan might wear a shalwar kameez. Those very different modes of dress can all be acceptable to the Lord as long as they are modest, long and flowing, decent, orderly, etc.

There have been and will be times in which an article of clothing represents something at a specific period of history in a given society. Based on the meaning, a child of God might abstain from wearing that particular item if it sent an ungodly message. For example, if today, wearing a blue-colored shirt represented to society support of the homosexual movement, it would not be wise for a saint of God to wear such. It is important that the principle be kept in mind so that in 40 years, when a blue shirt had no special meaning, the church is not still teaching it is unwise to wear a blue shirt. —mws



Question: Are pants appropriate attire for a woman?

To answer this question, let us examine in more detail 1 Timothy 2:9: “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety . . .”

“Modest apparel” in the original Greek is “*kósmios katastole*”. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* defines modesty, *kósmios*, as orderly, well-arranged, decent, modest. Modesty is also Biblically applied to one’s behavior and conduct.

Katastole or apparel, comes from the word *kata* and *stole*. *Kata* means down, a garment flowing down; and *Stole* is a long, loose outer garment, covering, or wrapping. *Katastole* means “a lowering, letting down; a garment let down, dress, attire” (*KJV New Testament Greek Lexicon*). *Katastole* is further defined as “A long garment or robe reaching down to the feet” (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary, Zodhiates*).

The commentator Adam Clark shares insight on *katastole*:

The apostle seems to refer here to different parts of the Grecian and Roman dress. The stola, seems to have been originally very simple. It was a long piece of cloth, doubled in the middle, and sewed up on both sides, leaving room only for the arms; at the top, a piece was cut out, or a slit made, through which the head passed. It hung down to the feet, both before and behind, and was girded with the zona round the body, just under the breasts. It was sometimes made with, sometimes without, sleeves; and, that it might sit the better, it was gathered on each shoulder with a band or buckle. Some of the Greek women wore them open on each side, from the bottom up above the knee, so as to discover a part of the thigh. These were termed showers (discoverers) of the thigh; but it was, in general, only young girls or immodest women who wore them thus.

The *katastole* seems to have been the same as the pallium or mantle, which, being made nearly in the form of the stola, hung down to the waist, both in back and front, was gathered on the shoulder with a band or buckle, had a hole or slit at top for the head to pass through, and hung loosely over the stola, without being confined by the zona or girdle. . . . A more modest and becoming dress than the Grecian was never invented; it was, in a great measure, revived in England about the year 1805, and in it, simplicity, decency, and elegance were united; but it soon gave place to another mode, in which frippery and nonsense once more prevailed. It was too rational to last long; and too much like religious simplicity to be suffered in a land of shadows, and a world of painted outsides.

The Bible standard of dress for a woman is that she be adorned in “*kósmios katastole*”—a modest, decent garment that is long, loose and flowing. A crotched garment, i.e. pants are not “let down” nor “flowing.” Hence, pants as well as mini-skirts, short dresses, tight clothes, etc. are not modest apparel for a woman professing godliness.



In addition to the scriptural teaching of modest apparel, it is very important to consider other aspects of the issue of women wearing pants, a man's garment. The Old Testament teaches that a woman should not wear that which pertaineth to a man (Deuteronomy 22:5).

"Breeches" were an article of clothing that the priests wore in the Old Testament (Exodus 28:42). According to the Hebrew lexicon, "breeches" means "trousers that extend to the knee, below the knee, or to the ankles." In Bible times, the women did not wear crotched garments. It was not until the twentieth century, in the western world, that women began wearing trousers. During the World Wars when their husbands were gone to war, women left their homes to work in factories, etc. and many began wearing pants on the job. With the feminist movement, there was a push for women to leave their roles as "home makers" and compete with men in the workplace and in society. There was a breakdown of the God-appointed roles of men and women in the home and in society. Women wearing pants was just one area that spoke of the spirit behind the feminist movement. Pants were a symbol of authority, thus the question: "Who wears the pants in the family?" Unfortunately, many holiness people have been greatly affected by the feminist mind-set which is far from what the Scripture teaches.

God created men and women differently and He expects them to conduct themselves appropriately for their gender. Society is doing all it can to break down the barriers between men and women, and dress is just one such area. The universal symbol for designating the men's bathroom is a stick figure wearing a pair of pants. The women's bathroom is a stick figure wearing a dress. While it is being lost, even our sinful society recognizes that there is a difference.

Pants were a symbol of authority, thus the question: "Who wears the pants in the family?"

In western cultures, women dressed in modest apparel stand out from society, but the people around still recognize them as "holiness" people. It should tell us something when the world itself sees a woman in a modest dress as a holiness Christian.

For almost 6000 years, women traditionally wore long dresses, robes etc. It is only in the last 100 years that dresses have become "impractical" to wear. It is noteworthy that even in society, when a woman wants to be feminine and recognized as a lady, she wears a dress.

God's word has not changed and His way is still right and it is perfect. It is vital that Christian men and women act as such—Christian—and fill the place to which God has called them. While it is contrary to the scripture for a woman to wear pants, the spirit behind it is even more wrong. May the Lord give His people vision and understanding that they may be a shining light until the day of His return.



—mws



DID YOU KNOW?

Is the wearing of high heels in keeping with the Scriptural teaching of holiness, modesty, and humility? Let the world itself answer this question.



“But heels that elongate the calf . . . now you're talking. Heels not only add height, but they affect the way you move and how you feel . . . you are upright and primed. And when your body feels that way it is easier to act that way.”

—“Why a Vogue Editor Will Always Wear High Heels” by Alexandra Shulman.



**A Word
In Season**

Separated Unto the Gospel

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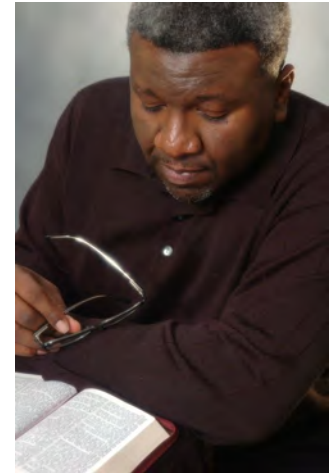
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Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God.”

—Romans 1:1

There is no greater call than to be a servant of Jesus Christ. It is an honor and a privilege to do the bidding of the King of kings and Lord of lords instead of pursuing the things of this world. Ministering to the lost and to the household of faith is not just a job or a career choice, it is a divine calling from the Lord.

The Spirit of the Lord is still calling saints to the work of the ministry. While every call of God is a little different, He is still looking for those who will fully consecrate their heart, time, and energy to the work of the gospel. Paul was separated unto the gospel of God. He was called to leave the course of this world and was set apart to fulfill a life-time call of ministry. There may be a time and place in the Lord for part-time ministry but there is no place for part-time consecration. There remains a need in this present generation for ministers to separate themselves from the cares that bind them to this world and give themselves entirely to the gospel efforts at home and abroad.



If you have been called of God and have been separated unto the gospel, be of good courage and stay faithful in time of need, for your Master will take care of you.

—mws

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD