

MODESTY FOR HIS MAGESTY

GENESIS 2, 3 AND OTHERS

Text:

Introduction:

We have been looking at being a good steward of our testimony over the last few weeks. To review briefly we have looked at three of the five ways how our name or that which we are known as is determined; Our Attitude, Our Actions, and Our Associations.

This evening we will consider the fourth attribute of how our name will be established; Our Appearance and Accessories.

This subject is probably more divisive than most probably just shy of preaching about money; however it is important that we follow the Bible's guidelines when it comes to the matter of our appearance.

What should the Appearance of a Christian be? How should a Christian dress?

What is generally agreed is that Christians should dress with modesty.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

⁹ 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; ¹⁰ But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

As a way of introduction I want us to look at three examples of dress and their relevance regarding this subject.

2 Kings 9:30

³⁰ And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard *of it*; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.

Exodus 28:2

² And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

Exodus 28:42

⁴² And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:

This first passage portrays what we have heard she looks like a Jezebel.

Shortly after Prophet Elisha anointed Jehu King of Israel, he sought to consolidate his powers and cleanse the land of whoredoms. His first target was the Joram, and his second target was Jezebel.

But as Jezebel heard of Jehu's approach, she painted her eyes, adorned her head and looked down from the window with the intention of enticing and seducing her

potential killer. Jehu ignored her seductive dressings and lustful glances, and ordered her to be thrown down to death.

The significance of this passage, for the purposes of this write-up, is that your dressing can be seductive and enticing.

The second passage is again found in Exodus 28:2.

Exodus 28:2

² And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

According to this passage, there are three characteristics of these garments.

- The garment must be Holy
- The garment must glorify God
- The garment must add beauty

The essential points that we must note when wearing any attire or accessories are:

- Does it enhance your holiness, such that it leads people to Christ rather than leading people to commit sin?

- Does it glorify God – are people likely to admire you as a human being created by God or think you are another animal.
- Lastly, does what you wear make you beautiful in terms of cleanliness, majestic like a tree in full bloom?

The third passage was in Exodus 28:42.

Exodus 28:42

⁴² And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:

God created man with higher intelligence than animals; therefore God does not expect us to walk around without clothing that covers our bodies.

The instruction here is specific. Your garments, attires or clothing must cover up your nakedness.

Nakedness is defined in the Bible as the uncovering of the thigh.

Isaiah 47:1-3

¹ Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: *there is* no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. ² Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. ³ Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet *thee as* a man.

It's also interesting how Webster defines nakedness.

1. Want of covering or clothing; nudity; bareness.
2. Want of means of defense.

As I said these examples are intended to be a guide. In reality the Holy Spirit is certainly the best guide in choosing and deciding what you wear.

I want us to consider 4 things as we consider the subject of modesty.

1. PERCEPTION

Some think that the way we dress reveals our spirituality; however the way we dress does NOT reveal the degree of our spirituality.

There are a lot of people who dress right who are not spiritual at all.

The Lord spoke of some these:

Matthew 23:25-27

²⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. ²⁶ *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. ²⁷ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed

appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.

Illustration:

Adam and Eve prior to the fall were not clothed at all, and were as spiritual at that time as they were ever going to be.

Genesis 2:25

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:7

⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

2. PATTERN

When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost their childlike innocence.

Clothing was needed to cover their nakedness.

Genesis 3:7

⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 3:10

¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.

Genesis 3:21

²¹ Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Note:

Adam and Eve both knew they needed to cover themselves. However, their attempt at covering was inadequate, for even with the covering, they hid from God because they were naked.

God put more clothes on them than they had put on themselves. They had made themselves aprons of figs, but God made them coats of skin.

Some say that if God cared our appearance and dress, He wouldn't have said it was 'good' when Adam & Eve were naked when they were created. Others say if God was concerned about appearance and clothing then he would have clothed Adam and Eve at the time He created them, however both statements completely ignores sin!

Sin changed things.

Clothing must cover one's nakedness.

Note:

- The altar was not to be elevated, less the worshipers saw the priest's nakedness.

Exodus 20:26

²⁶ Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.

The purpose of clothing is to cover our nakedness.

Some clothing cover, but do not hid a person's nakedness.

Adam and Eve's Apron covered them but still was not appropriate.

Examples:

- Clothing that doesn't cover our nakedness in all positions.
- Clothing that is made of material that is sheer or transparent.
- Clothing that is made of material that forms too closely to the body

Also we must consider our hair styles, makeup and accessories as well.

They call attention to the wearer because of what they have on and not because of "who" they are.

Our appearance and accessories shouldn't outshine the Lord whom the Christian represents.

3. PURPOSE

Our purpose in all that we do is to glorify God.

1 Corinthians 6:20

²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 10:31

³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Matthew 5:16

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1 Peter 2:12

¹² Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

4. PRINCIPLES

- A. A right heart must precede right actions.
- B. Our outward appearance reflects our inward heart or our degree of submission and surrender
- C. God deserves all our attention and our very best.

D. Our purpose is to glorify God and our deeds to cause other to glorify Him.

E. Our motive is not to look the part, but to draw attention to God and not ourselves.

F. It's better to be safe than sorry.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹ Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. ² And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. ³ But if any man love God, the same is known of him. ⁴ As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* none other God but one. ⁵ For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) ⁶ But to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him. ⁷ Howbeit *there is* not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat *it* as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. ⁸ But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. ⁹ But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. ¹⁰ For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; ¹¹ And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. ¹³ Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

Close:

In our attempts to justify what we wish to do, let us be careful we do not put ourselves in the position of those “who call evil good, and good evil”

Isaiah 5:20

²⁰ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Along with everything else about us, God is concerned about our appearance and may we heed Paul’s admonition:

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

May our appearance and accessories profess godliness.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

⁹ 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; ¹⁰ But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

