

“Dress Standards in Light of the Bible”

Lev. 18:6-29

Open: Story

- It is obvious from the verses read that God frowns upon the *uncovering of nakedness* of any kind.
- If God was so detailed in his defining of immorality, then what makes me think that as a Christian I can wear clothes that promote or encourage immorality.
- I must recognize that the importance of dress standards goes far beyond the material I use and how clothes I wear make me look.
 - Immoral dress leads to immoral behavior.
 - The clothes I wear are an outward display of the inward condition of the heart.
 - A unisex dress movement brings about a break down in the distinction between the two sexes.

Tran: Application

- The proper questions of an individual’s dress standard.
 - The question should not be, “*Does this make me feel comfortable?*”; but rather, “*Will what I am wearing honour Christ?*”
 - The question should not be, “*Does this make me look good?*”; but rather, “*How does this make Christ look good?*”
 - The question should not be, “*I wonder if someone will notice me?*”; but rather, “*What does Christ see when He looks at me?*”
- Excuses people use when explaining why they don’t dress the right way.
 - It’s too expensive.
 - “*Did Christ put a limit on the price of a soul?*”
 - “*When has it ever cost you more to do right than it was worth?*”
 - “*Does God, in his Word, not promise to feed and clothe you?*” **Matt. 6:25--33**
 - It’s not convenient.
 - “*Since when has doing right been based on convenience?*”
 - “*When has doing right ever been convenient?*”
 - “*Do you think it will be more convenient to deal with the consequences of obedience?*”
 - “*Does God, in his Word, not promise to help you to deal with the difficulties of life?*”
 - I Cor. 10:13** “*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*”
 - Matt. 11:29-30**

- I don't want to stick out.
 - *“Has God not called us to live a separated life from the world?”*
 - Peculiar does not mean that I must be weird or abnormal.
 - **Peculiar** – Distinctive in nature, possessing a character that is obviously different from others, or easily identified as belonging to a particular group.
 - **ILL:** As an LSU Tiger fan I would not dream of going to an Alabama game wearing any color that remotely looked like red. You would have no question about which team I was pulling for. Can people tell whose team your on by what cloths you wear, or do you look like the opposing team?
 - *“Did God not call us to live a peculiar life?”*
 - *“Do you want to stick out in the world, or do you want to stick out when it's time for God to pass judgement on disobedience?”*
- If I dress like I am supposed to, then I can't do the things I want to do.
 - *“Then you probably should not be doing those things.”*
 - *Then the things you want to do, are probably not meant for you to do.”*
 - **III:** While I was teaching in Florida, I went to a teacher's training course for the curriculum we were using. This place had a sports venue available during non-session hours. While there, I saw two ladies' volleyball teams composed of Amish ladies. They played better in their “get up” than those who chose to compromise on their dress standards.
- Bible principles for proper dress.
 - Am I biblically naked?
 - Am I breaking the Bible command to not wear cloth's that relate to the opposite gender?
 - Does what I am wearing draw attention to my body or to my face?
 - Does what I am wearing cause others around me to have impure or ungodly thoughts?

I. There is to be a distinct difference between how a man and a woman dress.

- **Deu. 22:5** *“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.”*
- A. Many will say that this does not apply to pants on a woman because in Bible days everyone wore robes.
 1. If this was the case, then why did God find it necessary to verses in the Bible that deal with the distinction of dress between a man and a woman.
 2. It is obvious by the wording of **Deu. 22:5** that there were some items of clothing that were intended by God for a man to wear, and some items of clothing for a woman to wear
 3. God clearly made men and woman different.
 - a. Gave them a different physical and chemical makeup.
 - b. Gave them a different role in both society and in the home.
 - c. Why would we try to claim that **Deu. 22:5** does not show us that God did not intend for a man and a woman to wear different articles of clothing.

- B. Just because man has decided to label some ladies articles as men (appropriate) and some men's articles of clothing as ladies (appropriate) does not justify the wrong action in the eyes of God.
1. Man changing of a law in court does not change the Bibles previously declared wrong to a right.
 2. Man may justify his improper actions in the eyes of other men, but he will not stand justified before God.
- C. It is wrong for **both** genders to be naked outside the realm of Bible defined marriage.
- Is. 47:1-3** *“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....”*
 - a. Mixed swimming and being at the beach are neither moral nor proper for any child of God.
 - b. Being unclothed in public or in front of your family is ungodly and God calls it an abomination.
 - c. Any clothes that cover my body but draws attention to my body in a sensual way is seen as nakedness in the eyes of God.

II. There is to be a distinct difference between how a Christian and the world dress.

- I Peter 3:3-4** *“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; [4] But 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.*
- A. I am not to embrace the world's style of dress. It is evident that God places more emphasis on the *inner beauty that the external.*
 - B. These verses (nor any other) do not remove the responsibility of personal hygiene nor do they discourage a woman from using make up or wearing jewelry; but these verses (and many other) tell us there is to be a distinguished difference between the worlds dress and the Christians dress.

Close:

- Does what you wear bring attention to your body or does it bring attention to your face?
- Does what you wear clearly identify you as being on God's team?
- Do the cloths you wear honor God?

Deu. 22:5

“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.”