

wicked hearts—the Bible talks about such women in Proverbs 6-7. But many of our ladies do not want to be an offense. They don't want to be seductive and sexy for other men. They want to be discreet and chaste, but may not be aware that their dress doesn't always say that.

There are certain clothing articles that a woman can wear, which are like magnets to a man's eyes. It is the kind of dress that entices a man to take a second look and has the greatest potential of planting impure thoughts in his mind. Dresses or skirts with slits that run up the leg; garments that hug the contour of the buttocks or breasts; tight shirts or blouses; halter tops; sashes or belts around the rib cage; unbuttoned blouses, exposed cleavage on any upper body garment; tops with large arm holes open enough to see into the garment; low-ride skirts or pants that barely hang on the hip bone; see-through clothing of any kind; anything that reveals the part of the leg above the knee; pants that shape the contour of a woman's body; and anything that reveals a bare midriff or back.

You do not have to have the same dress standard that I do (I personally believe it is wrong for a woman to wear pants) but godly modesty should be a grave concern for all Christian ladies. For the sake of the Gospel, your testimony, and your brother, you should be ever diligent to dress and carry yourself in a manner that screams you are a godly lady. I believe that modesty is as much an issue of the heart as it is of dress. If a kind rebuke offends you, then you

desperately need a move of the grace of God in your heart. It will do you no good to change your wardrobe if God does not change your heart.

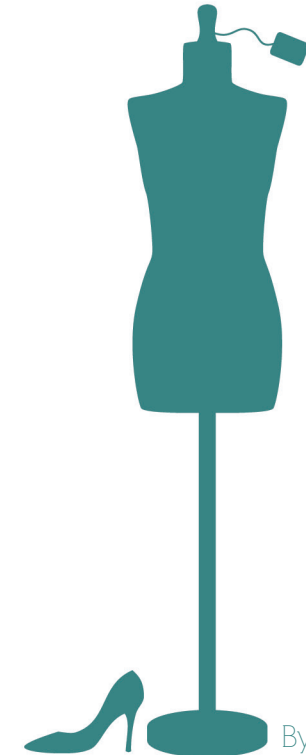
I challenge every pastor to hold a high standard in your church. Let the evangelicals dress down for church and call us legalists for refusing to adopt their "come-as-you-are, leave-as-you-came" mindset. Teach your young ladies how and why they must display godliness in their dress. And I challenge all ladies with a godly concern to pray to cultivate a sensitive conscience before God, seek the wise counsel of your husband, pastor, or older spiritual lady, and to determine that you will show the world, by your dress, that you are different.

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An Appeal for
Godly Modesty



By Tim Fellure

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1 Timothy 2:9-10

You have perhaps noticed a tragic “dressing down” in our society as a whole: go to the local Wal-Mart and notice the sloppy, crass and often vulgar way people dress in public these days. It is seen in boys trying to hold their pants up while showing as much of their underwear as they can, and in women wearing tops showing their bra straps and as much of their bare back and shoulders as possible. This world has lost all sense of modesty and decency.

It is what is expected of a world without the moral guidance of the law of God, but it should not be expected of the church. In particular, a godly lady should carry herself with grace, dignity, class, self-respect, and should be diligent to dress modestly and with Christian distinction. This should not even be an issue in our churches, yet we pastors are in a never-ending battle to keep the standards high. Why does godly modesty always have to be an issue, and why do some young ladies always push the envelope?

For the Sake of the Gospel

Both the apostles Paul (1 Tim. 2:9-10) and Peter (1 Pet. 3:1-4) make the point that a godly woman should be modest, discreet, and chaste in her dress.

A godly woman should never wear anything that is sexy, suggestive, or seductive in public. Some take these verses to teach that a woman should also not wear makeup, get their hair styled, or wear jewelry? Personally, I believe the Scripture is saying your outward adornment should not be what attracts others to you; it should be the inward adornment of a “meek and quiet spirit.” Modesty does not have to be the enemy of fashion. You can be beautiful, stylish, and fashionable...and still be modest.

In Titus 2:1-10, Paul gives a long list of actions the Christian should display in his life to “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” To adorn something is to make it look good or attractive to others. As a woman adorns herself stylishly to enhance her natural beauty, so we are the adornment of the Gospel. Our lives should make the Gospel attractive to the world. But when you appear before this world claiming to be a Christian without a transformed life, they have to ask “what good is the Gospel?” If you dress and carry yourself seductively or carelessly, what kind of advertisement are you for the Gospel?

For the Sake of Your Brother

Jesus put every man with godly intentions in a very precarious situation in Matthew 5:27-28, when He declared that lust in the heart is mental adultery. It does not matter how you rationalize it or who glamorizes it. It does not matter what Hollywood says or what makes Jay Leno laugh. Lust is mental adultery, a wicked sin against God, and it will be judged. “For this is a heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.

For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction...” (Job 31:11). “Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour’s wife...shall not be innocent” (Proverbs 6:27-29).

There may be a man reading this that is running around on his wife and you haven’t got caught yet; or you have not cheated yet, but you think about it often. Perhaps there is some flirt where you work and you like to flirt back: she calls you “Sweetie” and you call her “Honey.” Lust is a wicked sin that will lead you into paths of sin that will destroy everything you hold dear.

But the other side of the coin is that God also holds us accountable when we cause others to sin. “Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones” (Luke 17:1-2). Woe to the person who causes another to stumble.

In every church there are three classes of ladies: ladies who are decisively modest and distinctly feminine; ladies who dress seductively and suggestively on purpose; and ladies who simply have not been taught the biblical principles of godly modesty. This will appeal ONLY to ladies who have godly desires. Some are seductive and careless and have such