

God's Expectations

- 2 Cor. 7:1 – “Therefore having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God.”
- Matt. 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father** in heaven”
- These are lofty demands that require much thought and attention.

MODEST CLOTHING

Modesty is Important Because...

- God's word addresses the subject
- Society has lost its moral compass in this area which may adversely influence Christians
- We must be sure our choice of clothing is (1) in line with our goal of perfecting holiness, and (2) can be worn to the glory of God
- People will be lost if these instructions are ignored

Clothing

SPEAKS

Clothing Says...

“I am a woman”



Clothing Says...

“I am a man”



Clothing Says...

“I have a job”



Clothing Says...

- “I care about modesty”



Clothing can Say...

- “I want to show off my body” or “I don’t care how I present my body.”
 - It says this by being molded to the figure, by showing too much skin, cleavage, etc.
 - This invites ungodly attention.
- “I am sexually promiscuous” – Prov. 7:10

The World Admits Clothing Sends a Message

- Advertisers continually key on the message of one's clothing.
- **That Day I Wore Yoga Pants – 5 Myths About Modesty:** “Modesty affects us, ladies. It affects us greatly. It affects how we are perceived, how we are respected, how we advance in our careers, and even whether we get asked on a date by a God-fearing, decent man. Our choices in how we dress—how short our skirt is, how low our shirt is, how tight our pants are—is the clearest reflection of our personal priorities and our openness to letting God's Word alter our lives. I realize that is a bold statement, but it is very, very true. When I am not walking in God's Spirit and seeking to do what I read in His Word, I will wear whatever I want at the expense of the men around me and my own self-respect. In those moments, I would rather be trendy, Pinterest-y, and provocative than prove to the world that I worship God.” (Phylicia Masonheimer – phyliciadelta.com)

God Says Clothing Sends a Message

- 1 Tim. 2:9-10 – “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.”
- Clothing must express modesty – orderly, decent, respectable, honorable, admirable – 1 Tim. 3:2
- Clothing must express propriety – rooted in shame, bashfulness towards men, having a sense of honor, reverence
- Clothing must express moderation – soundness of mind/judgment, self-control, soberness, decency, chastity
- Clothing must be that “which is proper for women professing godliness”

Nakedness is

CONDEMNED BY GOD

Nakedness

- Public nakedness is shameful – Rev. 3:18
 - We don't find Bible commands like “Don't run around naked!”
 - Why, because it is a given that the natural response of decency is to cover up – Gen. 3:6-10 (Adam and Eve)
- What is nakedness?
 - Revealing any part of one's sexual anatomy is nakedness.
 - Nakedness can mean **nudity** – Mk. 14:51-52
 - Nakedness can mean being **under-clothed** – Jn. 21:7
 - Naked (*gumnos*) – clad in the undergarment only, naked (*Vine; Thayer*); (2) without an outer garment, **without which a decent person did not appear in public** (*BDAG*).

MODESTY MYTHS

Three Modesty Myths

- **Myth 1** – Modesty is determined by culture – 1 Cor. 10:31-33; Rom. 12:1-2
- **Myth 2** – Lust is the other person's problem – 1 Tim. 2:8; Mt. 5:28; 1 Tim. 2:9-10

Clothing and Responsibility

“It’s true, lust is a sin, and men shouldn’t entertain it. **But the level of their lust is directly related to how much of our bodies is available to lust *after*.** The less we advertise, the less opportunity we give them to covet our bodies.

The article I mentioned earlier said women have been unfairly singled out concerning modesty. While men *are* responsible to honor us with their eyes and minds, when we dishonor *ourselves* by what we wear, the real unfairness is to the men. Do we really expect to wear whatever we want and then tell them not to look at us? Do we really expect to fit in with the latest (often sexually promiscuous) trends and NOT be viewed as an object of sexual desire? **It is not just his job not to look: it is *our responsibility* to provide nothing provocative to look at.** We cannot blame men for what we instigate, and it is time for women of God to start acknowledging our responsibility in this matter, taking up our cross, and honoring God with our dress.” **(That Day I Wore Yoga Pants – 5 Myths About Modesty)**

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- **Myth 3** – Biblical modesty only condemns overdressing – 1 Tim. 2:9
 - Overdressing is the specific application
 - God's word often gives a specific application alongside a much broader command – 2 Thess. 3:6, 11; 1 Thess. 4:3-8

THE POSITIVE POWER OF MODESTY

Modesty Empowers

- Modesty **empowers** women to make a positive impact in the world.
- Women are empowered when they acknowledge and understand the allurements of their bodies to men.
 - The world says women are empowered by showing off their bodies and using their sex appeal however they desire, but that is a lie of Satan!
 - You may think men will not look, but that is false – Gen. 2:18
 - God commands women to dress modestly because **men care what you wear (or don't wear)**.

Men Care What You Wear

That Day I Wore Yoga Pants – 5 Myths About Modesty: “Oh, they do. They care. Why else would we care so much? Why do we place such value on being told we are pretty or beautiful by a man? Why do we spend half an hour getting ready before a date? Because men *DO* care what we wear, and we know it! Men care so much what we do (or do not) wear, they are very conscious of it at all times. While the level may differ man to man, the concept remains the same: extra skin, extra form, extra cleavage or extra leg will draw either subconscious or conscious attention from them. They are designed as visual creatures (we have had this taught to us many times over, have we not?) so a visual stimulant catches their eye...Because of this, **we have a great power**. We have the power to draw their eyes toward us for one of two reasons:

1. For the appeal of their desire based on revealing enough of our bodies to entice them; or
2. To appear attractive in personality as reflected in how we dress.”

Modesty Empowers

- Women are empowered by understanding the purpose of their bodies.
 - Your bodies, like men's, must be used to glorify God – 1 Cor. 6:19-20
 - A woman's sexual allurements are rightly purposed for her husband, as is a man's for his wife – Gen. 2:24-25

Conclusion

- God demands that we dress differently, significantly different in many cases.
- So much rides on our willingness to allow God's principles of modesty to guide our dress.
- **Tough Rule:** If you are exposing part of your body that you would feel *sexually violated* or *sexually uncomfortable* if a man or woman who is not your mate touched you there, you are showing too much!
- The choice to glorify God in modest dress is yours to make...every day!