

THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART

I TIMOTHY 2:9

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;

I TIMOTHY 2:10

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

I PETER 3:1

1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

I PETER 3:2

2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

I PETER 3:3

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;

I PETER 3:4

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.

I TIMOTHY 2:9

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;

ADORN: kosmeo {kos-meh'-o}

to put in order, arrange, make ready, prepare, to ornament, adore; metaph. to embellish with honour, gain honour

MODEST: kosmios {kos'-mee-os}
of good behavior, well arranged, seemingly, modest

The word translated "modest" simply means "decent and orderly." It is related to the Greek word from which we get the English word "cosmetic." A woman's clothing should be decent, orderly, and in good taste.

Modest dress. The contrast here is between the artificial glamour of the world and the true beauty of a godly life. Paul did not forbid the use of jewelry or pretty clothes, but rather the excessive use of them as substitutes for the true beauty of "a meek and quiet spirit".

A woman who depends only on externals will soon run out of ammunition! She may attract attention, but she will not win lasting affection. Perhaps the latest fashion fads were tempting the women in the church at Ephesus, and Paul had to remind Timothy to warn the women not to get trapped.

A woman's clothing should be decent, orderly, and in good taste. "Shamefacedness" literally means "modesty, the avoidance of extremes." A woman who possesses this quality is ashamed to go beyond the bounds of what is decent and proper.

"Sobriety" comes from a Greek word that means "having a sound mind and good sense." It describes an inner self-control - a spiritual "radar" that tells a person what is good and proper.

Discernment is always necessary when shopping for clothes. One way to discern if an outfit is modest is to ask yourself why you are buying it.

Is it something you like or is it designed to draw attention to yourself? Are you buying the outfit to attract the opposite sex? What type of attention are you seeking?

Remember, it is not Christian to tempt others through your dress, so if it is something revealing or you find that people are getting the wrong impression through your clothing then it may be good to evaluate that piece with a discerning heart.

There is plenty of great clothing available for Christian teens that is both modest and fashionable. It is not a sin to like nice clothes, but it is a sin when that desire for fashion becomes more important than your faith.

Roget's Thesaurus (thi-sor-as) lists the following words as synonyms and antonyms of modesty:

- Synonyms: "plain; quiet; simple; unpretending; shy; kept in the background; taking a back seat; reserved; humble; conservative; meek; chaste; lowly; decent; maidenly; bashful; shamefaced; unexcessive; unextravagant.

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AN ANTONYM IS THE OPPOSITE

- Antonyms: (an-ta-nim) "indecent; shameless; bold; brazen; loud; shameful; unblushing; unseemly; sexy; smutty; spicy; suggestive; boasting; show-off; strut; flaunt; extravagant; self-confident; pride; haughtiness; arrogance;

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- vanity; self-importance; self-adoration; self-glorification; high-minded; superior; puffed up; over bearing; display; parade; pageantry; flash; gloss; glitter; gaudy; exhibitionism; to advertise or exhibit; swanky. "

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Noah Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language

1. (a.) Restraining within due limits of propriety; not forward, bold, boastful, or presumptuous; rather retiring than pushing one's self forward; not obstructive; as, a modest youth; a modest man.

2. (a.) Observing the proprieties of the sex; not unwomanly in act or bearing; free from undue familiarity, indecency, or lewdness; decent in speech and demeanor; -- said of a woman.

3. (a.) Evincing modestly in the actor, author, or speaker; not showing presumption; not excessive or extreme; moderate; as, a modest request; modest joy.

I TIMOTHY 2:9

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;

APPAREL: katastole {kat-as-tol-ay'}
a lowering, letting down, a garment let down, dress, attire

SHAMEFACEDNESS: aidos {ahee-doce'}
Reverence, a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect

A shamefaced person can blush when faced with things that are irreverent or immodest.

"Shamefacedness" literally means "modesty, the avoidance of extremes. " A woman who possesses this quality is ashamed to go beyond the bounds of what is decent and proper.

Modest dress doesn't call attention to the wearer. This is a reason why clothing that exposes your nakedness is immodest. Costly jewelry or elaborate hair styles can also be immodest.

People should notice a Christian because of who she is and not because of what she is wearing. Therefore, the clothing that I wear should fit the occasion so that my attire does not outshine my Lord, whom I represent.

I TIMOTHY 2:9

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;

SOBRIETY: *sophrosune* {so-fros-oo'-nay}
Soberness, soundness of mind, self control,

And sobriety. The word here used means properly, *sanity*; then sober-mindedness, moderation of the desires and passions. It is opposed to all that is frivolous, and to all undue excitement of the passions. The idea is, that in their apparel and deportment they should not entrench on the strictest decorum.

Doddridge.

"Sobriety" comes from a Greek word that means "having a sound mind and good sense. " It describes an inner self-control - a spiritual "radar" that tells a person what is good and proper.

The Greek word for sobriety is *sophrosuna*. This is a person of sound mind, with self-control, of good judgment, and moderate in all that he does.

Women, God has given you a wonderful privilege. It is true, as we have heard it said so often, "The hand that rocks the cradle [though we may not have cradles any longer] is the hand that rules the world. "

It is given to mothers to set such examples before their children that they can count on God to save them in their early days, and where mothers obey what we have here they can expect God to honor their faithful testimony.

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There is evidence in the literature of the time of Paul that connected the behavior of women with the way they dressed. It was believed that the more a woman wore attractive clothes and elaborate jewelry, the more she lived a loose sexual life and the less she submitted to her husband.

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Shamefacedness and sobriety are character issues. They have to do with how we behave.

But what constitutes modest apparel? How do we know what clothing is modest and what is not? Some believe it is relative to our culture.

Clothing is only immodest if it is viewed that way by society. But we need to remember that in all things, our standard is not the world, it is the word of God.

It would be unreasonable for God to demand His people to dress modestly, but not show us what is proper. Therefore we know we can look to His word to find the answer.

BAPTIST PREACHER

So the first reason why a preacher says a woman should not wear pants is because they are a man's garment, and the Bible says it is an abomination for a woman to wear a man's garment. The second reason, pants are not, I repeat, not modest.

"Well preacher, that is your opinion. " Yes, but, I can prove it from the Bible. In First Timothy 2:9, we read that women should adorn themselves in "modest apparel. " In the Greek, the word for modest is the word *katastolh* {kat-as-tol-ay'}, and it means a long flowing garment.

The Bible in First Timothy 2:9 tells women to adorn themselves in a long flowing garment, not a short, tight garment. That is what modest is, long and flowing. Pants do not flow. I have never yet seen a pair of pants that flow. Therefore, even if "long," they do not qualify as a long flowing garment.

And since they are not a long flowing garment, they are not a {kat-as-tol-ay'}. {Kat-as-tol-ay'} is translated modest. Therefore, if a modest garment is a long flowing garment, and pants do not flow, pants are not modest.

Also, women are commanded to dress with shamefacedness. That simply means they are not to draw attention to themselves. And pants draw attention to the woman's figure. So if you wear a pair of pants, or even a tight skirt, it shows the figure and it is not shamefacedness, or modest, because it doesn't flow.

It shows the figure and it stimulates men. And of course, you should not want to dress in such a way that it stimulates the lusts of a man. Remember in First Corinthians chapter thirteen that it says, "Charity doth not behave itself unseemly. " You shouldn't seek to do things that would cause someone to fall.

Jesus said that if a man looks on a woman with lust in his heart, he has already committed adultery with her. Do you realize that if you dress in such a way that it shows your form and figure, and some man lusts after you, you have just let him commit adultery with you?

So only a full and flowing skirt qualifies as a {kat-as-tol-ay'}, a long flowing garment. So only a dress or skirt could be considered modest, because modesty is a {kat-as-tol-ay'}, long and flowing.

And since a long flowing garment, a skirt or dress, is the only way a woman can dress without showing off her figure, then only a skirt or dress would be shamefacedness.

Whorish dress has not stayed outside of the professing church. In most cases, the women in the professing church and the world look no different. Their "everyday" clothes are whorish, their "dress-up" clothes are whorish, and their "recreation" clothes are whorish.

ISAIAH 3:16

16 Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:

ISAIAH 3:17

17 Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.

ISAIAH 3:18

18 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon,

ISAIAH 3:20

20 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings,

ISAIAH 3:21

21 The rings, and nose jewels,

ISAIAH 3:22

22 The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the cringing pins,

ISAIAH 3:23

23 The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the vails.

ISAIAH 3:24

24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.

The above is an example of the opposite of shamefaced appearance. "Mincing" means short steps reflecting an air of haughtiness or seduction. "Wanton eyes" means seductive looks, winking seductively, and even falsely setting off the eyes with paint. Face-painting is mentioned in Jeremiah 4:30:

JEREMIAH 4:30

30 And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.

JEREMIAH 4:31

31 For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, and the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, that bewaileth herself, that spreadeth her hands, saying, Woe is me now! for my soul is wearied because of murderers.

Immodest dress is anything that is designed or intended to sexually attract or call attention to one's self. So when Christian women are looking at buying or wearing a particular item,

they must always ask themselves questions like these: "Why am I doing this? Why am I wearing this? Why is this particular piece of clothing designed the way it is?"

Why do women and girls wear makeup? Why is it expected that females will wear makeup? Face- and eye-painting has its origins in prostitution. It is used by females today for the same reason that it was and is used by prostitutes. Just one look at makeup advertisements confirms this. It is to make the person more attractive.

It is also very telling to note that high-heeled shoes were designed to make women walk in a certain provocative, "mincing" way.

Why does a preacher preach against shorts and mini-skirts? Well, once again that word modest or {kat-as-tol-ay'}, long flowing garment. Neither shorts or mini-skirts are long and shorts do not flow, therefore shorts or mini-skirts would not be modest, because they do not meet the length requirement.

A {kat-as-tol-ay'} is a long and flowing garment. The second reason why shorts and mini-skirts would be inappropriate for a woman is because the Bible specifically says that when a woman's thighs show, she is naked.

The thigh goes from your hips to somewhere in the knee. So if a woman dresses in such a way where that part of her body is exposed, the Bible says she is naked. Mini-skirts expose that part of the body. Thus, if a woman wears a mini-skirt, she is naked.

And shorts, they expose that part of the body, and the Bible says in Isaiah chapter forty-seven, if she shows that part of the body,

she would be naked. Well then, if you wear a pair of shorts, you would be naked, according to God.

Therefore shorts and the mini-skirt would be immodest, because they are not long, and because they expose nakedness. And as I said, the thigh goes down into the knee. So the only way to guarantee that the thigh is not exposed is to wear a skirt or dress that goes below the knee.

In the Bible days, women did not wear crotched garments. Pants have a crotch. Men in the Bible days wore crotch garments. Not only that, women in any society did not wear pants until close to the middle of this century.

Pants are called britches in the Bible, and britches were worn exclusively by men for the first 5,950 years of human existence (which means up until about fifty years ago). Even the garments worn by men and women in Bible days were different. The woman wore a long flowing robe, and men wore a shorter and tighter robe.

Underneath the woman's robe would be nothing. Underneath the man's robe would be a pair of short pants that would go down to the knees.

Whenever a man would have to do some type of labor, such as to team up an ox, pull a trailer or dig a hole, he would pull up his robe and tuck it in his pants that were under his skirt, and that was called in the Bible "girding up your loins. "

What about floor length skirts? It flows. It is modest. However, the word used for modest is *katastole*, which is long and flowing,

and a word that would be used in the Greek for a floor length gown would be poderis.

Since the word for modest is katastole, and not poderis, the garment has to be long but not necessarily floor length, since nakedness ended at the knee. Long would be somewhere in between the knee and the floor, but it doesn't necessarily have to go to the floor.

So if you want to wear a floor length skirt or dress, that is fine. There is nothing wrong with it, but it is not absolutely necessary. Just because your skirt goes to the floor and the other ladies' skirts only go halfway down their calf, that doesn't make you more spiritual than she is.

What about tight skirts? I see a lot of women with tight skirts. I went to a Bible college where we had rules. Women had to wear dresses and skirts. They weren't allowed to wear slacks. But let me tell you, a lot of those girls wore some pretty tight dresses and skirts.

You could see every curve on their body. Was that modest? No, because it didn't flow. If it flowed, it wouldn't show the figure. Was it shamefaced? No, because shamefacedness is to be dressed in such a way as not to draw attention to the figure. So a modest garment is a flowing garment.

A tight garment or dress is not modest, regardless of how much flesh it covers. Granted, it may go down below the knees and you are not naked, but you are still not modest. You are still not shamefaced.

So a woman needs to wear a dress or a skirt that is not just below the knees, but a dress or skirt that is full or flowing. It is modest only if it goes below the knee and it is not tight or reveals the form of the figure.

Of course, men who are sin-loving pigs want women to wear pants and miniskirts. It is sinful for women to wear pants or miniskirts.

Please don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying that it's wrong for a woman to be attractive; but Word of God clearly teaches that a godly woman should desire to attract men to her character rather than her body. . .

As American society becomes more apostate, homosexualized, promiscuous, and adulterous—the Biblical teaching of modesty is increasingly scorned with utter contempt.

Indeed, pants on women is obscene by Biblical standards, and is a form of obscenity which encourages men to lust. Let the heathen rage if they don't like the truth—God is still on His throne!

The bottom line is that pants on women [cause people to lust](#) with sinful adulterous thoughts (Matthew 5:28). Do you think it's a mere coincidence that homosexuality, child molesting, rape, and all sorts of other sexual sins have become prevalent in the United States within the past couple decades?

It's our sex-crazed American society. That's why condoms are being passed out to public school children.

I TIMOTHY 2:9

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;

HISTORY

Ephesus was a wealthy commercial city, and some women there competed against each other for attention and popularity. In that day expensive hairdos arrayed with costly jewelry were an accepted way to get to the top socially.

Paul admonished the Christian women to major on the "inner person," the true beauty that only Christ can give. He did not forbid the use of nice clothing or ornaments. He urged balance and propriety, with the emphasis on modesty and holy character.

from Bible Knowledge Commentary/Old Testament:

The specifics Paul mentioned (braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes) are not wrong in themselves, but become inappropriate when they indicate misplaced values (cf. 1 Peter 3:3).

In the Ephesian church these styles may have been associated with the local temple prostitutes. Christians must be careful about letting a pagan culture set their fashions.

JOHN GILL:

Not with broidered hair, or plaited, The Jews had women on purpose for this business; Mary Magdalene is thought to have her name from hence; Or gold, or pearls, or costly array: not that the apostle forbids all use or wear of such things. .

It was a complaint of Chrysostom's many hundreds of years ago, that some who came to public worship, appeared in such a dress, as if they came rather to dance than to pray; such apparel should be avoided: it is said of Pythagoras, that he taught the inhabitants of Crotona, the men literature, and the women chastity and modesty;

and by his disputations so far prevailed upon the latter, as to lay aside their garments of gold and other ornaments of their dignity, as instruments of luxury; all which they brought into the temple of Juno, and dedicated them to that goddess; declaring, that shamefacedness or chastity, and not garments, are the true ornaments of matrons.

POOLE SAID:

The apostle condemneth not these ornaments where they are suited to the quality of women, but where they are too excessive with respect to the purse of those that wear them, or take up more time to be spent in putting them on than is fit to be so spent, especially on a sabbath day,

or where they are put on out of pride, or to make a vain show, or are of that nature and fashion as they speak an unchaste or an immodest heart, or may cause scandal to others.

ADAM CLARKE SAID:

The extravagance to which the Grecian and Asiatic women went in their ornaments might well be a reason for the apostle's command.

When either women or men spend much time, cost, and attention on decorating their persons, it affords a painful proof that within there is little excellence, and that they are endeavoring to supply the want of mind and moral good by the feeble and silly aids of dress and ornament.

Were religion out of the question, common sense would say in all these things: Be decent; but be moderate and modest.

ALBERT BARNES SAID:

Females in the east pay much more attention to the hair than is commonly done with us. It is plaited with great care, and arranged in various forms, according to the prevailing fashion, and often ornamented with spangles, or with silver wire, or tissue interwoven.

The sense here is, that Christian females are not to imitate those of the world in their careful attention to the ornaments of the head. It cannot be supposed that the mere *braiding* of the hair is forbidden, but only that careful attention to the manner of doing it, and to the ornaments usually worn in it, which characterized worldly females.

Or gold, or pearls. It is not to be supposed that all use of gold or pearls, as articles of dress, is here forbidden; but the idea is, that the Christian female is not to seek these as the adorning which she desires, or is not to imitate the world in these personal decorations.

It may be a difficult question to settle how much ornament is allowable, and when the true line is passed. But though this cannot be settled by any exact rules.

Any external decoration which occupies the mind more than the virtues of the heart, and which engrosses the time and attention more, we may be certain is wrong. The apparel should be such as not to attract attention; such as becomes our situation; such as will not be particularly singular;

such as shall leave the impression that the heart is not fixed on it. It is a poor ambition to decorate a dying body with gold and pearls.

When the *heart* is right; when there is true and supreme love for religion, it is usually not difficult to regulate the subject of dress. *Costly array*. Expensive dress. This is forbidden, for it is foolish; and the money thus employed may be much more profitably used in doing good.

"Costly array" includes that which can be ill afforded, and that which is inconsistent with the feeling that the principal ornament is that of the heart.

DAKE SAYS:

It is the extravagance in ornaments and costly garments that Paul rebukes. (from Dake Annotated Reference Bible © 2007 by Dake Publishing. All rights reserved in U. S. A. and Other Countries.)

John G. Butler says:

“Not with braided hair” This braiding (sometimes translated “plaiting”) of the hair does not attack pig tails and hair braiding. It speaks of a particular practice in Paul’s day.

Women braided their hair in order to pin to it all sorts of gaudy, expensive jewelry. They would try to outdo each other in a vain show of wealth and beauty.

“Not with . . . gold, or pearls, or costly array”. The exhortation here does not forbid jewelry but forbids extravagant expense.

“But, which becometh women professing godliness, with good works” (1 Tim 2:10). Here the figure is used to dress in character, such as, in honesty, charity, humility, and purity.

These attributes of character exceed the beauty of any material apparel. It is not wrong for a woman to look attractive but the most important attractiveness is holy character.