

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE



INTRODUCTION

We are living in a time of moral confusion and our generation's immorality is reflected in many of today's styles.

Today's fashion industry has little regards for modesty and its products often projects look that are inappropriate for someone who wants to mirror Christ.

The marvelous grace of God in our hearts compels us to reflect His holiness in the part of our being that other people see. When a person becomes a Christian, his experience changes every facet of his life- not just the inward person but the outward person as well.

A BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE

The Bible instructs us to wear modest clothing that is, clothing with godly appearance. Of course, our outward appearance cannot substitute for inward holiness. Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves after they sinned, but God found their efforts inadequate. By making clothing of animals skins for them, He confirmed that they indeed needed modest clothing, but He also revealed that the holiness in appearance must be associated with God's provision for our sins. Only by the death of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, do we obtain the righteousness of God that we seek to reflect outwardly.

God instructed Israel's high priest to wear holy garments, "for he represented a holy God" (Exodus 28:2). God also ordered the priests to wear clothing that covered their nakedness and forbade elevated altars upon which priests would walk and thereby expose their nakedness (Exodus 20:26; 28:42).

ABOMINATION THROUGH THE WRONG USE OF GARMENTS

Deuteronomy 22:5 enunciates the moral principle of a clear distinction between male and female in outward appearance: one sex must not wear styles of clothing associated with the other. It states, "*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.*"

Proverbs 7:10 speaks of a woman with "*the attire of an harlot.*" Clearly, certain garments are associated with sin and are not suitable for godly people to wear.

The principle that God wants His people to reflect His holiness applies to the New Testament Church (Peter 1:15-16). **We are called to be living epistles read of all people**, declaring to the world God's holy nature and His abiding presence (II Corinthians 3:3). Our outward appearance is one way in which we are unspoken witness of the transforming power of Christ.

I Timothy 2:9 admonishes *“that women adorn themselves in modest apparel with shamedfacedness and sobriety, not with broided hair, gold, or pearls, or costly array.”* I Peter 3:3 gives similar instructions.

I Corinthians 11: 16 teaches that a woman should have a long hair, for it is her glory, and that a man should not have a long hair. A person's hair serves as an important visible symbol of his or her submission to God's plan of authority and as a distinguishing mark between the sexes.

Revelation 16:15 uses clothing as a symbol to instruct the church to stay close to God: *“Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”*

Clearly, God puts emphasis on the outward appearance of a person. To an extent, **clothing reflects the condition of the heart, and it sends a message to others about a person's values.**

A RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Advocating modesty of dress and outward dedication does not mean advocacy of salvation by works. Wearing godly dress is not a meritorious work to earn salvation rather it is a response to the saving grace of God. The blood of Jesus is our only righteousness. Our salvation comes from God, never from our good works. To think that we could earn His marvelous grace by adhering to dress codes would be a terrible mistake.

But to accept the grace of God and then be indifferent to Christ's commandment for the holy living would discredit His mercy. If the church preaches Christ and His saving grace without teaching biblical guidelines to live by, it leaves people open to confusion and failure. Deliberate and continuous disobedience to God Word will lead to the loss of saving faith.

Who can view the Cross without wanting to conform to Christ? Who would want to continue his or her old sinful patterns of living when Jesus Christ died to bring deliverance from those sins? When people comprehend His holiness, they desire to become holy.

While it is true that the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sins, it is also true that genuine love for Him restrains a person from presuming upon His marvelous grace. In our success-oriented society no one considers it odd if a company requires its employees to conform to a dress code. Why then should a church that teaches neatness and modesty for the purpose of honoring the holiness of God be considered narrow, restrictive, or legalistic?

If we are to honor God in our hearts, it is consistent to honor Him with an outward dedication. **I John 2:15** instructs us, *“Love not the world”*: surely then, **we would be foolish to mirror worldly values in our appearance.**

THE PROTECTION OF MODESTY

Adhering to a modest godly standard of dress and conduct offers protection from the surge of immorality that plagues our generation. Clothes and appearance transmit nonverbal signals. Christians who verbalize godliness but at the same time nonverbally declare sensuality and ungodliness destroy the effectiveness of their gospel witness.

The primary purpose of many fashion designs is to exalt the ego, attract undue attention to the flesh, stir desires, and ignite passion in others, thereby appealing to the lust of flesh, the lust of eyes, and the pride of life, which the Bible condemns (I John 2:16). If we are honor to the holiness of God, we must not dress in such styles and with such motives.

We must not naively ignore the complex causes of immorality and marital infidelity, but neither should we ignore the influence that sensual dress has on adultery and fornication. If a man looks with lust upon a woman he commits adultery in his heart (Matthew 5:28). If a woman provokes a lustful look by her appearance is she not partly responsible for the man's sin? If people would dress in ways that do not provoke lust, the moral fiber of our society would be strengthened.

The danger of overemphasizing any discipline in the Christian life is that some people allow the discipline to become a legalistic code. Some people who harbor unholy attitudes such as hatred, bitterness, envy, and strife falsely think they are spiritual because they wear modest clothes.

Such distortions are hypocritical and wrong. But we cannot dismiss the need for modesty in dress because some distort it. The biblical alternative to legalism is not permissiveness or license but self discipline motivated by grace, faith, love, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit. (See John 14:15; I Corinthians 9:14-27; II Timothy 2:24-27; John 2:3)

For the sake of our children, we must teach them to respect the holiness of God in all areas of life. Allowing or encouraging preteens and teenagers to dress in many of today's fashion is invitation to social and spiritual problems.

A dress code will not automatically remedy the decaying moral fiber among youth, but it does remind them of God's commandments. We must begin somewhere to teach children and youth moral responsibility, and standards of modesty in dress offer us this opportunity.

When we honor God and His Word in our hearts and in our outward appearance, He places an umbrella of protection over our families. While moral decay sweeps modern society and many modern churches, we are able to remain relatively untouched. **The world may scoff at our modesty, but we dare not lay down our cloak of protection and our obedience to the Word of God.**

ON TATTOOES, what the Bible says about it

LEVITICUS 19:28- *Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I [am] the LORD.*

We need to remember that our bodies, as well as our souls, have been redeemed and belong to God. Although 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 does not directly apply to tattoos or body piercings, yet it does give us a principle, *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* This great truth should have a real bearing on what we do and where we go with our bodies. *“For whatsoever is not of faith is sin”* (Romans 14:23). *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

ON MAKE-UPS

“You put all this make-up on, but what does it do, friend? There’s only one woman done that, and you know what God did to her? He fed her to the dogs. So if you see a woman wearing that, say, “Howdy do, Miss Dog-meat.” That’s exactly what she was. God fed her to the dogs: **Jezebel.** You know you don’t want to be of her daughters, but I don’t blame it on you. It’s because it’s tradition. It’s handed right down, and it’s a disgrace.” (HAS.LORD.SPOKEN.ONLY.TO.MOSES.title W.PALM.BEACH.FL 53-1130)

“Let me tell you something, sister. There was only one woman in the Bible that ever painted her face. Her name was Jezebel. And God fed her to the dogs. So if you see a woman wearing paint, you know she’s dog-meat in the sight of God.” (BEHOLD.I.STAND.AT.THE.DOOR.title GREENVILLE.SC 58-0617)

Yes, it’s the truth; we teach against it. God help preachers to get down to the Gospel. Listen, ladies, there was only one woman in the Bible that ever painted herself to meet a man, and that was **Jezebel; and God fed her to the dogs.** So when you see them wear that, say, “How do you do, Miss Dog meat.” That’s exactly what it was: God fed her to the dogs. You don’t want to be like her.” (PRODIGAL.title CLEVELAND.OH 50-0827)

“When you see a woman with a lot of makeup on, it goes to show **she’s empty inside. She’s false inside.** That’s exactly right.” (WHY.AGAINST.ORGANIZED.RELIGION.title JEFF.IN V-12-N-1 62-1111E)

“Now, if you--if--if--if you didn’t have any hair, and--and you wanted to wear some hair, it’d be all right, but wear one that looked like human. And if you didn’t have any fingernails, and--and you wanted to get some fingernails, don’t get them like hulls off of navy beans, get them--get real fingernails. If you haven’t got any of these things, it’s all right. If you haven’t got any teeth, get you some if they make you some, get them. But don’t pull your God-given teeth out just because they’re a little crooked, and they’re good teeth to get some. Don’t dye your hair, or something, and look like something that come out of the--some mire somewhere. Don’t... If you’re colorless, and you want to make yourself look like you got some color, it’s all right, I imagine. But don’t make yourself look like Jezebel, like a barn somewhere being painted.” (WHY.AGAINST.ORGANIZED.RELIGION.title JEFF.IN V-12-N-1 62-1111E)

ON EARRINGS

“And I can prove to you that that come from the Devil. I can prove to you that nothing in the... The originate of it was **heathens.** And as long as you wear it, **it’s a mark of a heathen.** Now, I just come back from Africa, and I’ve been in the Hottentot jungles and found out just exactly where **earrings,** where all that stuff come, and all this, a lot of jewelry **wrapped your necks and ears** and everything, where that comes from. **It’s the heathens. And the Bible don’t want a Christian to be a heathen.** And you don’t want... I don’t say that you are a heathen because you do it, but you’re making yourself

look like one. It’s because your pastor didn’t tell you the truth. The Bible said so.” (CHURCH.AND.ITS.CONDITION.title JEFF.IN CH 1-34 56-0805)

“In the Old Testament when a man had been sold to slavery, there come a year of Jubilee every fifty years (forty-ninth year and then the year of Jubilee). And when a slave heard this, and he wanted to go free, there’s--there isn’t nothing that can keep him from going free. He can throw down his hoe and say, “So-long,” go back home. The trumpet sounded. That’s right. But if he don’t want to go, and he’s satisfied with his slave master, then he’s taken into the--the temple, and **they take an awl (you know what an awl is), and they pierced his ear, and put a hole in his ear. And it’s a mark that he can never go back.** Is that right? He has to serve this master for all time. I don’t care how many more times the Jubilee sounds, whatever happens, he’s absolutely has--has sold out his birthright of being free.” (SECOND.SEAL.THE.title JEFF.IN 63-0319)

“You keep fasting, keep praying; getting the kids together, get rid of all the sin around your home, as Jacob said, “Take off your **earrings** and wash your garments.” Get ready.” (ISRAEL.AT.THE.RED.SEA.2.title JEFF.IN IC 65-96 53-0327)

“Today you got too much Hollywood evangelism, some little sissified guy with manicured hair, and stand up to a bunch of women with **earrings** hanging down like the devil’s stirrups, and enough **paint on their face to paint a barn, and bobbed hair,** and every... That use to be a sin among you Holiness people. What happened? You did run well. The Bible still says it’s a sin. That’s right. Oh, you Pentecostal people use to be very holy, but what happened? You did run well. Paul said, “What does hinder you?” **If it was a sin then, it’s a sin now. The devil might’ve went out of fashion, but he didn’t go out of business. He’s still in business.** That’s right.” (FIVE.JUNCTIONS.OF.TIME.title STURGIS.MI 56-0122)

IMMORALITY OF WOMEN IN THE LAST DAYS

“In this day when women is perverted, most perverted in these last days. The Scripture says so. Why? It’s the going out of the age. You remember what was the first perversion? Was a woman. That’s right. And in the last day... We never had this; we’ve had six thousand years that ladies tried to remain ladies. Now they try to act like men, put on clothes like men, cut their hair off like men, and so forth. They never did do that in any other age. The Bible predicts this, that they’d do this in the last days. And here you are, a perversion of women. No wonder the Bible said, “Those that escaped out of--out of--out of Zion shall be glorious in the sight of the Lord in that day.” See, how that those who escape...” (JEHOVAH.JIREH.PART.2.title GRASS.VALLEY.CA JJ 73-106 62-0706)

“Also we can see here plainly these **vulgar, ungodly, filthy programs** that we **have on television of Hollywood sex queens.** We can see the filth of this city as these kids, little old girls walking up and down the street here with little bitty tight clothes, twisting around, and it cold enough to freeze them to death. They don’t know that that’s the devil doing that. They are possessed of an evil spirit and don’t know it... You see the teenage queens they call them, these stripteases out on the street. Used to have to go to some vulgar show on the side to see a striptease. Just open your eyes, look out on the street. That’s all you have to do now. The whole thing’s a striptease. Sure. What do they do it for? To tantalize, tempt; that’s the only thing she can do it for. She does it because she’s filthy. She does it because she’s made that way. She don’t realize that she’s a instrument in the hands of Satan. That’s what she is. **Even in our schools today they’re teaching sex acts.** Our rotten world of woman worship... (MARRIAGE.AND.DIVORCE.title JEFF.IN V-3-N-13 65-0221M)

"Did you know that's an unclean spirit come on you? Do you know a little lady goes down the street all sexy-dressed, do you know that woman's going to have to answer for committing adultery? Well, she might be as pure as a lily to her boyfriend, or to her husband. But the Bible said, Jesus said, "If... **Whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**" **And then, if you dress like that and some sinner looks at you in that way, at the day of the judgment when he answers for committing adultery, it'll be with you. And it'll be your fault, because you presented yourself to him.**" (HEAR.YE.HIM.title KLAMATH.FALLS.OR 60-0712)

"Do you know **the fall came by women at the beginning?** And fall... The end is going to wind up the same way, women coming into authority and ruling over men, and so forth. Do you know the Scripture says that? You know the day that she puts on man's clothes and bobs her hair, all of those things are contrary to God's Word and... You know she represents the church? When, **you watch what women are doing, and you'll see what the church is doing.** That's exactly right.." (CHOOSING.OF.A.BRIDE.title LA.CA V-2 N-28 65-0429E)

"**Never in six thousand years has it ever been that women ever desired to cut their hair, dress like men, be perverted. We're at the end time.** And America, anyone who knows prophecy, knows that America is represented by a woman. This is called "woman's freedom." Freedom for what? To do as she pleases, sin. " (JEHOVAH.JIREH.PART.2.title GRASS.VALLEY.CA JJ 73-106 62-0706)

"She's naked on the street and don't know it. She's a prostitute on the street. **Women with these shorts on in God's sight is a prostitute and don't know it.** Notice, take our women. Now, if you want to see what condition the church is in, watch the way women are acting. She always represents the church." (SATAN'S.EDEN.title JEFF.IN V-2 N-20 65-0829)

"When the sons of God saw the daughters of men, they were fair, they took unto them women. Then the sons of God fell from their estate with God and become **woman chasers.** And if that ain't the picture of today, I don't know what is. That is true. Men... Even look at our churches today; look at everything you wish to; notice it. Everywhere, it looked in that day, must've been pretty women. **Men became slaves to them says history, that men became actually slaves to the women, because they were so pretty, that they become slaves.** They literally made shrines and worshipped. And just think, they literally worshipped female flesh and blood in that day. That's history. Now, watch. We find that, the same thing today. We see in the history that such sex appeal they had in them until the sons of God made unto themselves shrines of women. That's of **Venus** and so forth. See? They--they made shrines and bowed to these. When you say, "Brother Branham, we don't have such things as that today; you couldn't compare that with this day." I beg your pardon. I believe it's worse today than it was then. What do we see? TV... You can't even pick up a newspaper but everything that you see is spread with females: **pretty women on every whiskey package, in magazines, sexy, immoral dressed.** All the TV is--everything is some sexy-dressed woman, some pretty woman. And we find out on--on cigarette advertisements, everything that you can look at, you find that it's some attractive woman. You can't even see the advertisement of a pair of silk stockings 'less you see some kind of a thin shaped legs going through it. **What about today when the billboards, the television, everything you see is immoral, vulgar, sexy, ungodly-looking women?"** (FLASHING.RED.LIGHT.title JEFF.IN V-5 N-4 63-0623E)

Female flesh, they're flesh and blood; they're not gods. To my opinion (God forgive me if I'm wrong.) **it is a wholesale striptease.** You can't hardly blame a man if he's not a-a Christian but what would fall, and fall into temptations in such a place that he would do something wrong, till he--he could not hold himself. It's amazing that there's not more ravages goes on, because so many of it, the women's in for it. But if it wasn't, how could you blame the man? Put blame where blame belongs. Women was the cause of the first fall, and women ends up the time. She started it; she ends it. No wonder the Bible said, those that escape out of Zion shall be glorious in the sight of the Lord. (FLASHING.RED.LIGHT.title JEFF.IN V-5 N-4 63-0623E)

And in the days of Lot women were so low in their morals until they was not used as women should be used, but they were perverted until they--it become so common, that women become so common that they--they--**men lived with men.** The natural perversion from the sex cells had changed its position, because that **women had become so cheap.**

Jesus said here in Luke 17, "As it was in the days of Sodom..." Remember that **men had misused women in such a way until the natural act of life was no more desired.** And oh, it's awful to say this from the platform, but this is... If it ever was Truth, it ought to go from here. And it is so bad today till there is tens of thousands times thousands of them on the increase everywhere, perversions: **Sodomites.**" (FLASHING.RED.LIGHT.title JEFF.IN V-5 N-4 63-0623E)

"How perverted. **That's what Satan does. He perverts the nations. He perverts the church. He perverts the people. He is a deceiver, a perverter of the original Truth.** God made a man a man. He made a woman a woman, and He dressed them different, and He meant for them to stay that way and to act that way. One is feminine, and the other one is masculine. He separated Adam in the garden of Eden and did this, separated Eve from him. Now, wears her bangs, she cuts her hair like his, and he tries to wear his like hers. She wears his outside clothes, and he wears her inside clothes. .. Notice in this perversion, it's become from a man to a woman and from a woman to a man, and don't know it: a very good product of Satan's Eden if you'll watch the streets today, at our modern people." (SATAN'S.EDEN.title JEFF.IN V-2 N-20 65-0829)

"**A man, put on them little old sissy looking shorts,** and get out here. He... I don't think there is much man to him. **He is the biggest sissy I know of.** See, she's got her perverted Adam to act like she (See?), wearing her underneath clothes. She seen what she could do out yonder when she took off all her clothes, but her underneath ones; that's **the shorts, of course that's a woman's underneath clothes.** And here her Adam is wearing them now, which according to God's original Word is an abomination for a woman to put on a garment that pertains to a man, and a man put on a garment pertains to a woman, from the original Word. Think of it." (SATAN'S.EDEN.title JEFF.IN V-2 N-20 65-0829)