



“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.”

(Proverbs 31:10)

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Daphne Kirkland

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Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 3 - January 20, 2014



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Fundamental Independent Baptist Fashion Shows

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel...” (First Timothy 2:9).

Sometime ago I asked our young people what they thought was the most discouraging thing in attempting to live the Christian life as a teenager. One of the girls said the most discouraging thing to her was going to a fundamental independent Baptist church meeting (whose's pastor was a well known speaker at our fundamental movement meetings) and seeing how the women who were part of the families of the leadership, dressed.

I was at that particular meeting and was disgusted with the fashion show. It seemed the wives and daughters of the men in leadership were in a contest to see who could wear the tightest clothes.

The articles in this issue written by Sarah and Melissa were written five years ago about the same time as the meeting mentioned above. These girls are now in their twenties and still adorning themselves “in modest apparel.” I am greatly encouraged by our young people.

I believe being modestly dressed is very critical because it portrays who we are and what we believe.



Sarah

Mrs. Kirkland taught a class about being beautiful. During that class she taught us that there are two types of beauty: inward and outward.

Many women and teenagers tend to focus only on their outward appearance. It surprised me to learn that there were so many little things that we wear and do and say that reflect our inner personalities. It is said that your eyes are the mirror to the soul, and this course really showed me that I need to be aware of my outward countenance. I thank God that we have the opportunity to have been taught these things at an age that is crucial to be a modestly dressed teenager.

Sarah Julien

Dressing Down to go to Church: An Audience with the King of Kings



Buddy Smith

The following is by Pastor Buddy Smith, Grace Baptist Church, Malanda, Queensland, Australia <smiletex@bigpond.net.au>

We almost never hear anything said these days about how we should dress when we go to church. Shorts, muscle shirts, t-shirts, shirt tails hanging out like we used to see lazy louts wearing, see-through dresses, miniskirts, spaghetti strap dresses, bare feet (for grown ups!), scruffy jeans, almost anything goes.

I fear we will soon see pajamas worn to church, just in case the sermon is boring and the wearer decides to catch up on the sleep they missed on Saturday night when the teens had an all night movie blitz!

Most preachers are running scared, and get the shakes whenever God speaks to them about the need for sermons on certain topics, like the way Christians dress.

I have a theory that you can tell how secure a pastor is in his church by whether he is courageous enough to preach on the C4 topics. C4 topics are those explosive subjects that tend to blow pastors clean out of their pulpits. Subjects like Giving, Witnessing to the Lost, Missions, Church Attendance, How to Raise Your Kids, Rock Music, Fasting and Prayer, Why Christians Should Avoid Hollywood Like the Plague, Total Abstinence from Alcohol, Gambling, TV, Addiction to Social Media, Separation in All Its Forms, Why Holiness is Not Legalism, etc.

But the most divisive subject of all is probably How Christians Should Dress When They Come to Church. If pastors want to save money on air conditioning the church during the summer, just let them preach a three-month series on Christian Standards of Dress and the temperature will drop by at least twenty five degrees the first Sunday and stay there till Christmas.

Does It Matter to God How We Dress?

It would do us good to read everything God says in the Holy Scriptures on Dress, like the following passages:

1) That point out the difference between fallen man's and God's standards for dress --

Genesis 3:7, "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

Genesis 3:21, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

2) That tell us that a harlot's immorality is seen in the way she dresses and behaves --



Melissa

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..."
(Ecclesiastes 12:1)

There are a lot of things that I have learned this school year; however, there is one class that has truly helped me to see things in a different light and to look at the picture as a whole.

That class is Mrs. Kirkland's course on modesty.

I have learned that from the moment someone meets you the way you sit, talk, stand, walk, and dress sends out a message. Even our eyes send out a message and our eyes shows those around us what is within us. Lamentations 3:51 says, "Mine eye affecteth mine heart..." Also in Proverbs 10:10 it says, "He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall."

Some people think that beauty depends upon our outward appearance, but beauty comes from in our heart; and although we have heard this many times before it is very much true. I have been reminded that sometimes the people that we meet that are physically beautiful have an "ugly" spirit. And sometimes the people that may not be attractive, in our opinion, have personalities that are beautiful; and it is that quality that outshines their physical appearance and attracts us or does not attract us to that individual. Personally I believe that the way we dress is an important characteristic of being a God-honouring teenager. Many people have different definitions on what they believe is dressing modestly. I have learned that from our perspective we may think that our dress is modest but we cannot see what others do. In our beauty course we needed a full length mirror with a pendulum down the center.

When we got dressed there were many things that we had to check for. Such as when you bend over that our shirt does not come down and that your skirt does not come up.

Also I learned that when you turn sideways your shirt and your skirt should not be tight, and it should not emphasize any body parts. One thing that was said in this class that I have not forgotten is: "When we wear tight clothing we are reducing ourselves to nothing but body parts."

Sometimes as Christians we tend to let modesty slip and other times we do it when we are aware of the fact that we are dressing immodestly.

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Proverbs 7:6-10, "For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart."

3) That reveal that a nation's apostasy is displayed in its women's styles of clothing, hair, and jewelry!!!!

Isaiah 3:8, 16-24, "For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory. 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: 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. 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, The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the vails. 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."

4) That teach that God would have us know that making bare the leg and uncovering the thigh is nakedness in His sight --

Isaiah 47:2-3, "Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man."

5) That set the standard, not in stylishness, but in modesty --

First Timothy 2:9, "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."

But What about the Way Men Dress?

Most of what is said by preachers on the subject of Christian Dress is said about women's clothing. Why is this?

1) Because most of what is written in Holy Scripture about clothing addresses women's dress. It is quite clear that women are MUCH more interested in the way they look than men are. Admittedly, men nowadays show more interest in being fashionable than they used to. I remember when my dad came home from WWII with his khaki uniforms, he took the patches off them and wore them to work, wore them at home, and wore them to church. The earliest photos of our family show my dad dressed in khaki. That's all he had and it didn't worry him at all. Fashion simply wasn't important for men 65 years ago, or not the men we knew. If it was clean and modest, it was in style. I still hold to that approach.

When we do this, we are opening ourselves to the devil. Other times we think that if we dress immodestly we are dressing in an unappealing manner; we are dressing in a way that people will make fun of us, or we are dressing "uncool." That is not true. We can dress modestly and still be beautiful and yes people may make fun of us, but for all that Christ has done for us it is worth it.

The Bible says in Titus 2:14, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." However we dress shows those who are looking up to us as well as those who are older than us what is in our heart. Another thing I learned is that the way we walk gives people an overall analysis about us. Sometimes you can see in other individuals walk what their attitude is like.

I know it takes a lot of courage to do what is right in such a wicked time as this, but we should not be ashamed that we are God's children. When we know that we should be doing what is right and we do wrong it breaks God's heart. We should not be ashamed of God.

In Second Timothy 1:8 Paul says, "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God."

We would do well to ask ourselves if we are ashamed of God and if we are God-honouring teenagers?



Melissa Galgalan

"And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart."

(Proverbs 7:10)

The attire of an harlot is any manner of dress which would draw attention to the body rather than to the countenance.

God gave a woman breasts to feed babies and to satisfy her husband, (Proverbs 5:19) not to satisfy everyone at the mall or at church.

2) The impact of fashion designers on the styles worn by Christian women today is amazing! Hemlines, necklines, tightness, sheerness, colour, and cut are mostly determined, not by dress standards derived from Holy Scripture, but from clothing designs worn by the immodest supermodels who strut and prowl the catwalks at fashion shows. And since IMAGE (not godly modesty) became the driving agenda for Christian women, many Sunday morning church services are often slightly sanitized versions of the world's catwalks.

3) Man is much more visual in his sexuality. In Jesus' warning in Matthew 5:28, it is the man who lusts after the woman. Thus it is doubly important as to how women dress.

The Sermon of Slouch

So what about men's styles? At present, where I pastor, our men have adopted the casual look. Ties and shirttails are OUT. (My mother cured me of leaving my shirttail out by threatening to sew lace on it so everybody would think I was a pansy. I never did it again.) Shoes are mostly left unshined and jeans are all the go. The congregation is largely composed of casual men, dressy ladies, and scruffy kids.

Is it important how men dress when they go to church? I believe it is. We men are to be leaders, trailblazers for our families. We are to set the standard. When we are too casual in our dress, we unknowingly send signals to our wives, to our children, and to those who know nothing of God. The "SERMON OF SLOUCH" is an eloquent oration on carnal slothfulness, and our wives, daughters, and sons are listening closely. If we dads let the flesh have its way in OUR sloppy dress, then we must not be surprised if our wives follow our lead and "dress to kill," our daughters mimic Britney and Gaga, and our sons copy Snoop Dog's latest outfit.

Our carelessness in dress preaches to them that the worship of God is not something we need to be serious about. In most churches we fathers are so "laid back," we are so lacking in reverence that it bothers us not at all to slouch into the house of God late and looking like a "mob of swaggies on holiday." (For you non-aussies, a swaggie is a tramp, a bum.)

I wonder if God's people dress better to go a wedding than they do when they go to worship their Saviour? Does that tell us how highly we esteem the object of our affections?

An Audience with the King of Kings

If the fear of God ever falls upon us again, if an Awakening is sent from Heaven, if God visits His people in Divine Intervention, our hearts and mouths will be hushed with a godly fear so that all the trivial yabbering will die away, and we will begin to dress in a manner befitting our audience with the King of Kings.



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From Our Book What Is Modesty? Download This Booklet Free On Our Website [\(Click Here\)](#)

The Bible has many examples of good and bad dress. For example, the "great harlot" in the Book of Revelation symbolizes the end-time apostate religious system. In contrast, "the bride" of Christ represents the Christian. The contrast between the two women is portrayed by their outward appearance.

The harlot is "arrayed in purple and scarlet." **Isaiah 1:18** refers to scarlet as the colour of sin. It says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." The harlot is said to have a name on her forehead. Roman authors tell us that prostitutes wore a frontlet on their foreheads giving their names. One thing is sure. In Roman days or today you can spot a prostitute by what she is wearing. In contrast to the harlot,

Revelation 19:8 says the bride of Christ is, "Arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Revelation 21:2 gives us the principle for a Christian woman's dress code. It says, Christ's bride was "adorned for her husband."

Every Christian, man or woman is referred to in Scripture as the bride of Christ and should dress in a manner that would please Christ. John explains that the fine linen of the bridal dress represents the acts of faithful obedience of the saints to Christ.

God wants the apparel we wear to be a reflection of the real person in the body that is being dressed, no matter what day of the week it is or where we are. Romans 12:1 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." The word "reasonable" means - "pertaining to reason or logic." In other words, if you think it through it is reasonable for God to ask us to do this. The word "service" refers to us being servants. Actually, we are bond slaves. A bond slave is, "one who voluntarily gives himself up to another's will."