



Build on the Rock

Doctrinal Lesson
Series 2023

Lesson 21:

"Christian Dress and Adornment"



When the topic of dress comes up in the church, many say, "God knows my heart", "God doesn't care about how you dress", or "Don't JUDGE ME!" The topic of dress has become a very sensitive subject to talk about in a time when the fashion industry is promoting vanity, immodesty and homosexuality. Does the Bible give us any instructions on how we should dress and adorn ourselves? If so, why would God care about how we dress? Complete this lesson with KJV Bible and learn all about Christian dress and adornment!

1) What divine principle did God give to His people concerning how they should dress? What makes people attractive in the sight of God? -1 Peter 3:3, 4, 1 Samuel 16:7

1 - God doesn't want our beauty to come from "o__tward ad__rning of plaiting the h__ir, and of w__aring of go__d, or of putting on of app__rel; But let it be the h__dden m__n of the h__art,....even the ornament of a m__ek and qu__et sp__rit, which is in the s__ght of God a gr__at pri__e."

2 - "Man l__oketh on the o__tward app__ara__ce, but the LORD looketh on the h__ar__" to find beauty of character.

*Note: According to the Bible, God does NOT want His people to depend on outward adorning, fancy hair styles, expensive jewelry or flashy clothing to make them feel attractive. Instead, God desires that His people be adorned inwardly. The inward adorning is a new heart, which results in a pure, meek and humble spirit. This is what God values as a great price!



2) How does the Bible describe the thoughts and dress of the Gentiles (unbelieving world)? Should we live like them? Ephesians 4:17, 18

1 - We should "n__t walk as other G__ntiles w__lk.

2 - Their thoughts are on "van__ty" and "their underst__nding d__rkened."

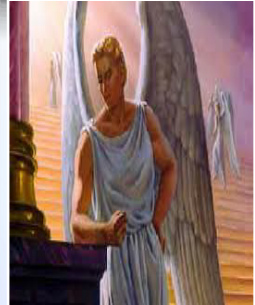
*Note: The word "vanity" is defined as "excessive pride in or admiration of one's own appearance or achievements." (Google webdef.) To make up for the lack of inner spiritual peace and happiness that the gospel gives, the world walks in

....vanity in an attempt to gain the praise and attention of men. Being all absorbed in self and external appearance to draw attention to self will ruin our characters and alienate us from God!

**3) What kind of thoughts corrupted Lucifer?
What did this lead Lucifer to do? -Ezekiel
28:17, Isaiah 14:12-14.**

1 - Lucifer's "hea_t was lifted _p" because of his "bea_ty". His "wisd_m" was corrupted by reason of his "br_ghn_ss."

2 - Lucifer's vanity lead him to "exa_t" his "thr_ne ab_ve the stars of G_d" and to try to "be l_ke the M_st H_gh."



***Note:** Lucifer was brighter and more beautiful than the other angels. As his thoughts became too absorbed on this fact, he became proud, envious and rebellious. If this was the cause of the fall of Lucifer, vanity and self adoration will awaken the spirit of rebellion in us too. This is why we must guard against vanity of dress and adornment!

4) What specific principles does the Bible give us concerning dress and adornment that will guard us against vanity and pride? -1 Timothy 2:9.

1 - Woman must "ado_n thems_lves in m_dest apparel,....not with broided hair, g_ld, pe_rls, or c_stly arr_y."

***Note:** Though, this counsel is specifically given to women, this can apply also to men, seeing that God is NOT partial in his requirements and moral standards. God commands us to dress modestly, not in expensive clothing, not with braided hair, or any kind of jewelry. The braiding of hair that Paul seems to be referring to here is the braiding with gold, pearls or other costly ornaments to beautify the hair. Paul is NOT speaking against spending a little extra money for higher quality clothing, but is speaking against spending excessive amounts of money for brand name and flashy clothing, that draws too much attention to self.

**5) What types of problems does immodest dress cause?
-Proverbs 6:23-29**

1 - Immodest dress can cause us to "lust" after the "be_uty" of a "str_nge wom_n" and can result in a man going "in to his ne_ghb_r's w_fe."

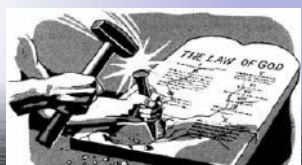
***Note: Immodest dress can.....**



...cause the wearer to act provocative and lustful,



...cause the beholder to lust over your body,



...lead to fornication or adulterous affairs.

6) What does the Bible say about the importance of distinction in dress between men and women? -Deuteronomy 22:5.

1 - "The w__an shall not w__ar that which pertaineth unto a m__n, neither shall a man put on a w__an's g__rment."



*Note: Cross dressing is condemned in the Bible because of the confusion it creates. God created the man with distinctive attributes, characteristics and responsibilities, as he also did with the woman. When people blend the two together by causing the appearance to look as similar as possible, it creates confusion in roles, gender and sexual preference.



7) What did God say when the women in Israel adorned themselves in jewelry? -Isaiah 3:16-21.

1 - The Lord will "t__ke aw__y" their "tinkling o__na__nts," "the br__celets," "the earr__ngs," "the r__ngs, and n__se j__wels."

2 - "The Lord will sm__te with a sc__b the cr__wn of the head of the d__ughter of Zi__n."

8) Who was the first person the Bible mentions of wearing a ring? -Genesis 41:41, 42

1 - "And Phar__oh took off his r__ng from his h__nd, and put it upon Jos__ph's hand."



*Note: The Egyptians were known for wearing a lot of jewelry, especially gold, as they believed that gold was the flesh of the sun god, Horus. The ring that Pharaoh gave to Joseph was a sign of authority and status. Joseph wore the ring because he was subject to the Egyptian customs in his situation, but never do we see God commanding His people to wear rings or jewelry.



*Note: To the left is a picture of the most ancient ring ever discovered. This ring was found in Babylon, which existed even before Egypt. This ring is in the shape of a Satanic symbol called the Eternal Serpent, or "ouroboros." The serpent is symbolic of Satan and the circle is symbolic of eternity.

*Question: How did wedding rings become a practice in the church?

*Answer: As the Catholic Church was responsible for bringing Halloween, Sunday worship and other pagan traditions into the church, they are also responsible for bringing the pagan custom of the Wedding Ring into the church. Pope Gregory I, in 860 A.D. decreed that as a required statement of nuptial intent, the groom to be, had to give his fiancée an engagement ring. He further decreed the ring be of gold to.....

..... signify financial sacrifice. The first diamond engagement ring is the one given by King Maximilian in 1477 to Mary of Burgundy.

9) While the children of Israel were in Egyptian bondage, they adopted the customs of wearing jewelry. What did God tell the children of Israel to do after they left Egypt and were on their way to the Promised Land? -Exodus 33:1-6

1 - "P__t off thy o__nam__nts from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee."

2 - "And the children of Israel str__pped themselves of their orn__ments."

***Note:** God used the challenges of the journey from Egypt to Canaan to purify the children of Israel from idolatry, unbelief and immorality. One of the things that they had to be purified from was the practice of adorning themselves with jewelry. God would NOT dwell in their presence until they had removed their ornaments from their bodies. You will NOT find in the Bible a command from God where He tells them to put the jewelry back on.



10) What does the Bible say about piercing, cutting or writing on our bodies? -Leviticus 19:28.

1 - "Ye shall not make any c__ttings in your fl__sh for the dead, nor pr__nt any m__rks upon you."

***Note:** The custom of the heathen was to painfully cut themselves, pierce themselves and mark themselves with tattoos in honor of the dead because they believed that it was pleasing to their gods. In the story of Elijah, the prophets of Baal cut themselves until blood gushed out when they were calling on Baal to send fire upon the altar. (See 1 Kings 18:28). According to Leviticus, God does NOT want His people to cut themselves, pierce themselves or write any permanent markings on their flesh.

***Note:** Historically, tattoos are associated with magic and pagan worship performed only by priests. "Tattooing is often a magical rite in the more traditional cultures, and the tattooist is respected as a priest or shaman." (Michelle Delio, *Tattoo: The Exotic Art of Skin Decoration*, p. 73) "In Fiji, Fromosa, New Zealand and in certain of the North American Indian tribes, tattooing was regarded as a religious ceremony, and performed by priests or priestesses." (Ronald Scutt, *Art, Sex and Symbol*, 1974, p. 64)



Appeal) Will you, with the help of Christ, reform your dress and adornment so that it is pleasing to Christ? _____.

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