

CHRISTIAN APAREL

Gen. 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.*

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

The way Christians dress, or should I say do not dress, in many instances is a far more important issue than many want to make it. So often when the subject of appearance is brought up someone will say “God looks on the heart, and not on the outward appearance.” Of course that is from I Sam. 16:7, *But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.* That is certainly true. We need to have our heart right with God. That is the most important thing. However, that scripture is not talking about how people dress. It is referring to how handsome or appealing someone may appear to people. God is not impressed by how handsome a person is. God looks at the heart. Now, none of us can change our physical attributes. Some of us are taller and stronger and faster and better looking than others. That is not what God looks at. He looks on the heart. That scripture does not give Christian folks the right to dress in a worldly, sensual, revealing, and unbiblical fashion.

Sometimes a person will point to a Christian who dresses with a conservative dress standard who displays unchristian like behavior. They say, “ see! dressing in a certain way does not make a person a better Christian!” Because a person does the right thing in one area of their life, and fails in another does not make what they were doing right of no value. If a person faithfully goes on visitation to win souls, and is found to be a hypocrite do we stop visiting? Others try to say the modest dress standards of the Bible were only for Biblical times. It is true God does not expect people to go around dressed in the same kind of apparel that Paul and Peter wore, but the principles of modest and Biblical dress standards do apply to modern fashions for Christians who want to please the Lord, and obey God’s Word.

In the verses in Genesis that I have just read there can be no question of the importance of the way people dress in God’s eyes. God was concerned about the way Adam and Eve dressed. Adam and Eve had sinned. Their eyes were opened, and they realized they were naked. They sewed fig leaves and made aprons. God took one look at them and said that will never do. Fig leaves are not a proper testimony for a covering of your sin. That will take animal skins. Heb.9:22 says, *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.* Fig leaves could not represent the Blood of Christ that would be shed for the forgiveness of sins. Then God said those little aprons you have made are not sufficient to cover your body. So God made them coats. Not aprons like they wanted. That did not half cover the body. God made them coats. The God who looks on the heart made them coats. Now before you say, “oh that is Old Testament stuff, you remember this was before the Law of Moses, God did set a standard for future people. It is wrong to put temptation in people’s path or to expose the body shamelessly, but God had something else in mind. Adam and Eve were sinners saved by the Grace of God. They needed to dress like people who have

been redeemed. They needed to show their submission to their creator and savior. Now you can use all the excuses and interpretations you can contrive, but the fact is the Bible says, **and clothed them**.

Is there anyone who can say clothing is not important to God after reading the Genesis account? Christian apparel is an important issue. Many people have convinced themselves that the manner in which a child of God dresses is of no consequence. Many liberal and unbiblical churches teach nothing about how their people dress. Christians walk about shamelessly displaying the human anatomy, dressing like unsaved people filled with worldliness and pride. No, clothes will not make your heart right. Neither will baptism save a person, but a saved person needs to be baptized! I do not believe God is looking for people who will argue with His Word. I believe God is looking for people who *trembleth* (Is. 66:2) at His Word. Christian apparel is not “such a little thing” it is not “straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel,” as so many claim. Christian apparel is a Biblical issue.

CHRISTIANS ARE TAUGHT IN THE SCRIPTURES TO DRESS IN A WAY TO PROMOTE HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

I Tim. 2:9-10, *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 (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.* (Notice this does not say braided hair. It says **broided**).

Christians need to live right. We need to live better than the world. We need to let people know that when a person accepts Jesus Christ everything is different. Too many Christians are copying the world today. Too many are full of the world's ideas, the world's attitudes, and even dress like they have never been redeemed. Our outward appearance should show our inward experience.

We find things in these verses that all Christians should have in common. For these verses display an attitude of submission and humility to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Notice the Apostle Paul first said, *in like manner*. These verses give some specific instructions to Christian women, but the principle applies to both men and women. God's children should dress in a very conservative manner. Let's look at the specifics of these verses. *Modest* means decent or pure. Christians should put forth a special effort to dress in a way that they do not reveal too much of their bodies. God does not want His people to wear *aprons*. Shorts, revealing clothing, or tight clothing is not appropriate for Christian men or women. It is a sin to reveal the body in an unholy or suggestive manner. To dress in a worldly revealing manner is not living according to the Bible. *Shamefacedness* according to Webster, means “extremely modest, or showing shame”. Are Christians to walk around sad and ashamed? No! Not at all, but Christians should be ashamed to dress in an extravagant flashy, prideful manner. The world does not have Christ. People of the world are not saved. They are full of pride, and emphasize self and the flesh. The attitude of the world is anything goes, and “if it feels good do it.” The Christian attitude is to live a life dedicated to Christ. The Christian is to show that life is not about self, pride and material things. Christians should be clean, and neat in their appearance, and never sloppy, unkempt and loose. Col. 3:1-4, *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand*

of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Is your life in Christ? Have you died to the world? Oh Christians! We need to agree with God, and obey His Word! We need to give our heart to the Lord, dress in a way that shows He owns us! You don't have to go about dressed like somebody died. That would be wrong. Christians have the joy of the Lord. We should be happy people. Just dress in a modest, nice, neat manner. **Sobriety** is another word in this verse. **Sobriety** means serious. Now Christians need to be serious about their testimony for Jesus. There are all kinds of fashions "born again" people should not be a part of. Yet, so many Christians wear fashions that are not appropriate for someone who belongs to Jesus Christ. There is new age jewelry. The new age stuff is not promoting Christ. It actually promotes another religion, or another Christ. There are Christians who wear crosses that are not Christian. Those little crosses with a circle on top are Ankhs. That is an Egyptian cross. It is about another religion other than Christian. Now, I am not saying to judge people. Many people are just unaware of some of these subtle ways the devil sneaks his testimony in. I am not trying to judge people. I am trying to teach the Word of God. Anything that is a poor testimony for Christ in the way we dress, or the way we live is wrong. Some styles of dress display an attitude that is vulgar, and sensuous. That is not the proper way for a Christian who wants to glorify Christ, to dress. Some people wear clothes that have slogans and pictures that are opposite to the Christian life. Those things are not appropriate. The way we dress should show that Christ lives in our heart. Oh I know preachers should not preach about the way people dress. Everybody should be able to dress any way they want. God doesn't care how a person dresses. Well friend, if you are not saved, you certainly don't need to be worried about the way you dress. You need to think about your soul. You just need to come to Jesus, and let Him save you. But, if you are a child of God, and you are saved you need to grow as a Christian. You are a **new creature**. II Cor. 5:17, **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.** Do you really believe that verse, or have you removed the word **All** from that verse?

The New Testament, Yes, I said the New Testament, addresses how God's people dress. Mark 5:15, **And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.** Here was a man who couldn't keep his clothes on until he met Jesus. He was running around naked because he was full of devils. Doesn't that suggest something about who people are glorifying when they show off the flesh? When this man got saved it was just amazing. One of the first things he did was put on some clothes. No, I don't believe he was sitting in front of Jesus in shorts. Anyone who wants to understand the spirit of the New Testament can see God wants Christians to dress in a holy manner. They are not to dress like heathens.

When people get to Heaven clothes are emphasized. Rev. 19:8, **And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.** This is the marriage supper of the Lamb. This is how the saints of God will be dressed at the marriage supper. Let me tell you folks that like to go to church dressed like you are going to a beach party. **THIS IS A FORMAL OCCASION!** Listen, the house of God is a sacred place. Where do people get off

running around saying God could care less about how people dress when they go to church? Yes, God loves us. No clothes are not the most important thing in a persons relationship with Christ, but stubbornness and disobedience are stubbornness and disobedience .

The New Testament also warns that Christians should not think clothing makes them good. I Peter 3:3-4, *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 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.* No, putting on the right clothes will not make a person a good Christian. That only happens when a person lets Christ live in him or her. Yes, people can make too much of dressing in a certain way according to a certain style. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for dressing to try to make people think they were holy. But I cannot find where Jesus rebuked people who dressed in a *modest*, shamefaced, sober manner, because they loved the Lord. Jesus also said in Mt. 23:26, *Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.* Let's not be guilty of what the Pharisees did. That was hypocrisy. Let's not judge people, but let's surrender our heart to Christ, and have a good testimony in everything. Even in the way we dress.

Let's make no mistake. Those who say standards are not important, and follow the world don't know their Bible. Gen. 3: 21 says, *and clothed them.* It was not some preacher that was concerned about clothing it was God! Some years ago my wife and I went camping. We set up our tent in a state park on a riverbank. There was a man who came by. He stopped and talked a minute. Nothing was said about the Lord at this point. Then he said, "Are you a Preacher?" I said, "yes." He said, "I thought so." Now I didn't have up any sign that I was a preacher. I do not know what he saw that made him say that, but I am glad he saw some testimony in our little camp sight that led him to that conclusion. I have a feeling part of it was we were not wearing shorts. I was dressed in long pants, and an old shirt. My wife was dressed like the lady she always is. Praise the Lord when people see us and think of Christ, that is good.

ONE OF THE INDICATIONS THAT WE ARE IN THE LAST DAYS IS THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST, AND THAT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH CLOTHES.

I John 4:3, *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

The apostle John is talking about the evil spirit that will bring the Antichrist to power in the last days. Now, I hope you know what I am talking about. I do not have time in this message to teach about the evil world government, and the Antichrist that is going to come. All I can tell you is the devil is working hand over fist to bring the world to a place he can rule the world through the man the Bible calls the Antichrist or the Beast. I do want you understand this. Please understand what I am about to tell you. As long as the church of Jesus Christ is strong the Antichrist cannot take over the world. For the Antichrist to come to power the church has to be weak, worldly, and sinful. II Thes. 2:3, *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come*

a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; The Bible says, that before the antichrist can be revealed the church has to become worldly and weak. Where do you get that preacher? The Bible says there will be a falling away right? Well, who is going to fall away? I'll tell you. It is Christians. People of the world cannot fall away; therefore it is the people of the church that fall away. So get this right. If you want to fight the devil be strong in the Lord. Build good Bible believing churches. Win souls, and know your Bible. If you want to help your children not be deceived teach them the Bible, and take them to a good Bible believing church. Don't hurt your church! Don't rebel against God's Word! Don't let the devil cause you to quit! You stay with it! You be faithful to the Lord! You be obedient to God's will! Live a holy life in Christ!

What will cause the falling away? II Thes. 2:7 says, ***For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*** There is a time coming when many Christians will fall away because they are living sinful lives. They will become worldly and unspiritual people. They will grieve the Holy Spirit, and many will commit the sin of apostasy. I Tim. 4:1-4, II Tim. 4:1-3 read those passages. There is coming a falling away. I don't want to be a part of it! I don't want this church to be a part of it! I am going to fight it with all the strength God will give me! This will come about by the devil sowing his wickedness even in churches. Carnal Christians will be in a lot of trouble. They are going to be deceived! We can already see the old serpent working his wicked plan.

Now, if you want to tear down a mountain you can't do it all at once. You have to do it a little at a time. The devil knows that. Today every thing that is good, and sacred is being corrupted, and drug through the muck. The devil is after the church. He wants to destroy Christians and their influence on society. That is why prayer has been attacked. That is why the Ten Commandments are being challenged. The separation of church and state is not in the Constitution of the United States. The founding fathers did not want a state church, but they did want Christians in government. The devil and his crowd is using this lie of separation of church and state to bludgeon people of faith. They have twisted Thomas Jefferson's statement, and they know it. Jefferson wanted to protect the church from the government. The devil always twists and lies. Today we have abortion on demand, pornography and vulgarity everywhere. You can read garbage to children in the public school. You can teach them wicked things like depraved sex, and homosexuality, but you cannot even read the Sermon on the Mount. If you cannot see the spirit of antichrist working in our world today I feel sorry for you. I pray God will open your eyes! What is worse many churches have let the spirit of antichrist in the sanctuary. The Catholics have the scandal with their priests. Televangelists have fallen. The protestant churches are not protestant anymore. They have accepted modern versions, or should I say perversions, and they are on their way to apostasy. Oh preacher that is strong. Yes, it is strong, but when churches have no real convictions about things like drinking, smoking, people living together who are not married, adultery and homosexuality they are on their way to apostasy. The devil is having his way with a lot of church people. Modern versions are a blight. They are confusing people and watering down "sound doctrine." They tickle the ears of unsuspecting Christians. Rock music is not converting young people it is making it impossible for Bible believing churches to reach young people with the true message of salvation. And worldly dress is filling God's church with worldly Christians who know nothing about crucifying the

flesh. How can a Christian be dead to the world, and crucify the flesh as the Holy Bible teaches, and dress immodestly, and wear the kind of clothing I see on “Christian” men and women today. There is nothing modest about the way many Christians dress today. People who have no standards have no limits. People who do not understand that the Christian life is a life of surrender and dedication to Christ are deceived. They are helping the spirit of antichrist. Listen you better hang on to the King James Bible, and go read Gen. 3:21 where it says, ***and clothed them***. The precious Holy Spirit is grieved over the church today. He is weeping over the pride, and worldliness, and blindness of people who are supposed to live for Christ. What is wrong with dressing modestly, shamefacedly with sobriety? If you cannot see the devil is chipping away at the church, and one of the ways he is succeeding is by causing Christians to be worldly, you are spiritually blind. If people don’t understand that judgment must begin at the house of God they are in a lot of trouble. I remember when I was a young man, and preachers tried to tell people movies were not good. That was back when the cowboys wore white hats, and the bad guys wore black ones. Many people said preachers who preached that stuff were just too old fashioned, and narrow. Yea! Well look at us now. There is hardly a decent thing on television. They have started using words I don’t even think about. The devil sits in the living rooms today and trains children to sin. Oh, but that is fun. That is entertainment. That is O K! But a preacher who dares to say we are off course, a preacher who dares to say Christians should dress in a way that promotes purity, and holiness is too narrow! Oh yes, the falling away is in full swing. The devil has even enlisted liberal pastors, and teachers to help spread his pernicious lies. Listen! People better wake up. People are being deceived. The devil has chipped away, and chipped away, and Christians have slept. Now, he is getting ready to chop off some big chunks. Listen, clothes should not even be an issue for God’s people. Christians should never want to dress in the worldly ways they do today. Churches have opened the floodgates. They allow anything just to get a crowd. The devil will never defeat the true church, but many will be deceived and fall away. No, clothes do not make a person holy. Clothes do not save a person, but clothes are important to God----- ***and he clothed them***.

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD HAVE A STANDARD OF DRESS.

Deut. 22:5, ***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.*** I know that is Old Testament, and we are not under the Old Testament. You just bear with me. There is a spiritual principle in this verse. Men are not to resemble women, and women are not to resemble men. No, I don’t believe a Christian man should wear a dress, and I don’t believe a Christian woman should wear pants. I believe the principle in Deut. 22:5. You throw it away and you will be sorry, and your children and grandchildren will suffer. Now the New Testament talks about the way people dress. Read I Cor. 11:1-16. No I don’t believe a man should have long hair, and I don’t believe a woman should have short hair. A man’s attire should not resemble a woman’s. Neither should a woman’s apparel resemble a man’s. Why is God so concerned about this issue in the Old, and New Testament? Notice the words ***effeminate***

nor abusers of themselves with mankind, in I Cor. 6:9, Both of these terms *effeminate*, and *abusers of themselves with mankind*, have to do with the sin of homosexuality, or lesbianism. We live in a society that is drifting more, and more toward this sin. The difference between men, and women is being eroded in people's minds. Hence, same sex marriage is on the march. Nudity is promoted and applauded in the world. Especially women are being exploited. The spirit of antichrist is working through movies, books, schools, advertisements, T.V, and many other things to seduce adults, and children into an "alternate life style."

Out of all this chaos, and wickedness the church must stand its ground. The church must be ... *the pillar and ground of the truth* (I Tim. 3:15). The Church must set forth a way of life that is Biblical, and holy. No, clothes do not save a person, or make a person right, But *and he clothe them*. If it is too much to ask for Christian men to dress in a modest manner, and for women to dress in a way that does not promote ungodliness, then it is already too late. The falling away is here, and the Antichrist is next. Oh Lord clothe thy people! IF people cannot find decency, and holiness, and truth in the church, then they will not find it anywhere. If people cannot see true surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ in the church where will they see it? ... *When the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth* (see Lk.18:8b)? If children cannot see people who love the Lord enough to at least dress in modest apparel in the church, then where? The church is not supposed to have a worldly atmosphere! Christians should not be vain like the world!

We try to love people, and help people, and win people to Jesus Christ. We want people to know they are welcome at this church. We want people to come and feel loved, and accepted no matter who they are, or what their position in life is. We don't want anyone ever to feel that someone in this church looks down his their nose at them. We try hard to let people know God loves them, and we love them. I don't want ever to keep anyone from coming to church. And when people come who are coming to worship with us, you who attend here know, we allow them to come dressed just about any old way. You know we do our best to welcome anyone, and everyone. We do not major on dress. The problem is many people do major on dress or the lack of it. Therefore it becomes an issue. But let me tell you. I meet people, and I ask them to come to church. Occasionally a woman will ask, "Do I have to wear a dress." I say, "you just come." However, there are people who will not come to this church because they have heard we believe in a dress standard. I am sorry about that. They judge us without even giving us a chance. But do you see what is happening? There are so many liberal unbiblical churches that have no standard, and they make it hard, and in some cases impossible, for us to reach some people. Listen! If Christian men and women are not dedicated enough to at least wear some clothes for Jesus how can they say they love the Lord? If they do not have enough respect for their church to cooperate in something as basic as to dress modestly they have no respect for their church. When people will rebel, and fight their pastor about things as basic and fundamental as decent apparel he does not have any authority as their pastor. Listen folks, I am not preaching this so I can have some kind of authority over people. I am preaching this to help people live for Christ. Having standards in your family will help your marriage. It will help in having order and respect in the home. The right kind of standards, when taught in a loving Biblical way, will help your children have self-respect. It will help them say no to things that are wrong. It will help everyone to know that Christians are different from the world. I cannot tell all the benefits good

Biblical standards will have. But people who have no standards have no limits. If you can't say no to yourself you can't say no to bad things. Standards are important. Now, listen to me. We cannot, and we will not, stop teaching what the Bible teaches to get people to come. We will not stop preaching drinking is wrong to get people to come. We will not stop teaching stealing, or lying is wrong to get people to come. No, clothes are not the first thing people need to be taught when they get saved. No, we do not want to major on clothes, but for the child of God worldliness is an issue. When people pull off their clothes, and display them selves in a way that is wrong it is an issue. It is not the main issue, but it is a Biblical issue. Like any sin it can become the main issue. The lack of standards of respect and reverence has made it an issue in our churches today. People must not be deceived into thinking it is not important.

Rev. 7:9 ***After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*** Did I read that right. Did that say "clothed?" Oh some smart liberal preacher will say, "see how shallow old brother Noyes is. He takes this verse literally. He doesn't understand that white robes are symbolic of righteousness." To which I say riiight! Righteousness that is riiight! The saints will be clothed in righteousness. Not in worldliness. Not in shorts, and revealing clothing, and suggestive clothing, or clothing that makes a woman resemble a man or vice versa, but in righteousness. Those who don't want holiness, and righteous robes will not be there. The Lord is coming for people who want to live holy for him. No we have no righteousness of our own, but we put on His righteousness. I cannot make it any plainer than this. Clothes are not the main issue of course. But to dress and act as many Christians do today is not Biblical, it is sin, and it promotes the falling away and aids the spirit of antichrist. It is harmful to themselves, it is harmful to their families, it is harmful to their church. I can just hear someone thinking, "I will just quit. If I am harmful I will just quit." That is just what the devil wants. He wants you to fall away. The answer is not to be offended, or hurt, or angry. I don't preach about sin to hurt people. I preach about sin so people will get saved. So backsliders can renew their covenant with God. So Christians can dedicate their life, and get closer to God. I preach to encourage people not to discourage people. I am not your enemy because I tell you the truth! God loves you. He wants you to get closer to Him.

To say that God does not care how a person dresses is ridiculously unspiritual. It is deception. It is false doctrine. Oh, I know, there are preachers and churches that will tell you different, but what does the Bible tell you. Do you want your ears tickled or do you want the truth? God takes a sinner just like he/she is. They don't have to clean up to be saved. They don't have to be good. They just come to Jesus, and they get saved. Hallelujah! But once a person is saved God doesn't want them to continue to be sinful, immoral, ungodly and rebellious, and worldly. The Bible says, ***and he clothed them.***