

4.6.20 – When You Have To Wear Clothes

I'd like to preface this article by making the statement that a lot of what we write is our opinion. Unless we are quoting the Word of God what we say is up for debate and meant to be thought provoking. As always, we believe in freedom under grace allowing for differences of opinion on things that are not specifically laid out in the scriptures. We also believe that where one person is spiritually or relationally is not where someone else is so what applies to one may not apply to another.

In this article we are going to write about clothing since there are times when we are forced to use it. Clothing always makes a statement about the wearer. Let's stop there for a moment and think about that statement. Whether intentional or not, you are making a statement with your attire. Whether considered or not, you are making a statement with your attire. As Christians we need to honor Christ with that statement. Whether right or wrong, the world judges on outward appearance, all the more reason to make sure that we are making a good statement with our clothing. The concern here is not what they think of us, but what do they think of the God we represent. What does the clothing statement say about God and your relationship with him? There is a lot of freedom in this area. That is religious phrasing for gray area. What is right now will not be right in the future. What is right in our society is not right in all societies. What is right for one may not be right for another. We will not be able to say what is right in most cases, but we will describe the extremes and you and the Holy Spirit will need to pick where you should be between the extremes.

Your clothing should not call improper attention to you. Jesus must have had very average clothing or Judas could have just told the Pharisees where He was spending the night and returned to the group. Take the guy with the white robe that always looks spotless and has a halo about His head, would not even be needed because the Pharisees would already know that part. Our clothing should not say, "Super Christian is among you."

We have to use the favorite verse of the textile believers **1Ti 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;**

This is the only verse that comes up if you do a search of the KJV for “modest” and we find the modern meaning of the word to be humble.

The Apostle Paul used the same Greek word in **1Ti 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, G2887 given to hospitality, apt to teach;**

Here the Greek word is translated "of good behavior".

The entry in the Blue Letter Bible for the Greek word has: *well arranged, seemly, modest*. Strong's definition includes "orderly". The Greek word is only used in these two verses making it difficult to get a better idea of what the Greek word might mean in English from other translations of the word. This verse is saying that you should have your clothing coordinated and in order when you are in public. It should not look like you want everyone to think you are royalty nor should you look like they did not have your size at the Salvation Army store. Humble, yet appropriate is probably the best way to view the word in both verses.

Appropriateness of your clothing is a concern in our age. When the verse above was written, most people had one garment and that was appropriate for everything that required clothing. Because the average person typically only had one outfit (due to the cost of clothing) the events that required clothing socially were less than we have now due to the much lower cost of clothing. For instance, work typically didn't require clothing then so as to not dirty or damage the single item of clothing one could afford. Now we have Sunday clothes, causal clothes, sports clothes, work clothes and many other categories too numerous to name. Today we even group people by their work clothing: blue-collar workers and white-collar workers. If you dress inappropriately for an event, your clothing says that either you did not know what was appropriate for the event, you do not have what is appropriate for the

event, you wanted to be noticed at the event, you are protesting the event or the clothing appropriate for the event, or you just don't care what is appropriate. Not much in the list that brings honor to God.

God created us man and woman and because of that we should try to look like the gender that God created us. **Deu 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.** As a side note, we believe the easiest way to look like the gender that God created us is to be naked and not ashamed as God intended, but I digress. Many Pharisees today have tried to use the verse above to teach that women should not wear pants. We believe that to be unscriptural and to be adding to the Word of God, a practice specifically forbidden by God with a curse attached. Please note that at the time this verse was written, Everyone Wore Robes, both the men and the women! The Hebrew word used for the woman wearing that which "pertaineth to a man" was translated into many different English words including "armor". We just do not know what Moses meant by "pertaineth unto a man". The Hebrew word used for the man wearing a "woman's garment" is usually translated into an English word for clothing like here. Regardless of what was prohibited by the verse when Moses wrote it, the message is that men and women should look different when dressed just as they do when naked. God created them naked and there is enough difference when naked that you do not need to look closely to find it. This eliminates the need to watch for which sign is on the restroom door they use to figure out which gender they are...although today that might not even be a help.

Christians should not dress like a harlot either. That is not as easy as it may sound. Harlots do not have a dress style like the Amish, but there is an attire as indicated by: **Pro 7:10**

And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. In Solomon's day, the harlot or prostitute was a well-dressed woman. Naked women were common, so nakedness was not likely to get attention like fancy clothing would. Keep in mind that

in this day and age utility was uppermost in clothing style. Today with the abundance of cheap clothing and unlimited styles, it becomes a matter of hiding your weak points and calling attention to your outstanding features. The question becomes, "Am I calling attention to myself as a sex object?" The authority on the answer is a member of the opposite sex who will be honest with you and clear enough that you know if you're properly dressed.

It may not be necessary to mention, but to be sure, we will. What you decide to wear should be clean and not look like you slept in it. If you don't like ironing, try to buy clothing that does not need ironing. Pet hair is another problem that should be dealt with before leaving the house if you are not going to a petting zoo. Any other issues that distract from the impression you make with your clothing should be corrected like nearly worn out, badly stained, missing buttons, missing belt, to mention a few.

We should not look like famous worldly people. We have to wear clothing that most of the people in the world wear. We should not try to copy the style used by a singer who is openly anti Christian, promotes drug abuse, promotes immorality, and etc. We should not look like we are promoting some wicked person or wicked act.

We are not saying that we need to all look alike. Not a single snowflake is identical to another and not a single fingerprint matches another so different is okay, so long as different doesn't equal in rebellion. God created us to be individuals not clones.

The idea we are trying to convey is that our clothing makes a statement. We would recommend that the statement it makes is...I am a Christian. I represent the almighty God. I am an ambassador for the kingdom of Heaven. As always, we believe that we should be naked when possible since that is how God intended from the beginning. And that when we must be clothed, we should distinguish ourselves from the world the best way that we possibly can following the leading of the Holy Spirit.