**Concerning Modesty – Applying Principles of Godliness**

*1 Timothy 2:9-10*

**Introduction**

1. Modest attire will be that which is proper for one who is professing godliness **(v. 10).**
   1. Godliness – *theosebeia* – the fear or reverence of God. (Vine)
   2. ***“with good works”*** – i.e. through obedience one shows themselves to be a God-fearing person.
2. Truly, the basic principles of godliness seen throughout the New Testament applied to our dress will ensure that we will be modest.
   1. Of course, this can only be accomplished through the specific standard of modest dress God has given us.
   2. However, one who is godly and truly practices the principles of godliness seen throughout scripture will not hesitate to act on the instruction God has given for modest attire.
3. Holiness
4. The Call to Holiness
   1. **1 Peter 1:15-16** – God calls us to be holy as He is holy.
      1. Holy – *hagios* – fundamentally signifies “separated” (Vine)
      2. **(v. 14)** – not conforming to former lusts (sin) – but be “holy” (separated from those former lusts).
      3. How separated? – AS GOD IS SEPARATED. (**1 John 1:5** – no darkness at all)
   2. Holiness and purity:
      1. *Hagios* from the same root as *hagnos* (pure) – **1 John 3:3** – as He is pure.
      2. “pure from defilement, not contaminated” (Vine)
   3. God is our standard of being holy by which we will be judged – **1 Peter 1:17** – judgment without partiality.
      1. Therefore, have the fear of God, and act on that fear by being holy (separated).
      2. **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7-8** – know how to possess your body in sanctification and honor – that is what God called us to.
5. The Vehicle to Holiness
   1. How do we achieve the separation God calls us to?
   2. **John 17:14-16** – Jesus speaking of disciples – they are in the world but not of the world (or sanctified – set apart from the world). (**v. 15** – by being kept from Satan by God – but how?)
      1. **(vv. 17-19)** – They are set apart by the truth.
      2. The truth of God is the vehicle which gets us to holiness!
   3. Modesty – we are to be holy in the realm of our attire, as we are in all areas of life.
      1. Can be holy only by adhering to God’s standard.
      2. Holiness is not:
         1. Simply being better than the world – **Romans 12:2** – Note the standard – the “will of God” you are transformed by.
         2. Simply being better than other Christians – **2 Corinthians 10:12** – comparison to each other is not wise.
         3. Simply following what you’ve always been told – **Acts 23:1** – Paul’s good conscience didn’t excuse his sin. (Told by parents, grandparents, spouse, preacher, etc.)
      3. GOD IS THE STANDARD.
6. Love for Fellow Man
7. The Command of Love for Man
   1. **Matthew 22:37-40** – the command to love our neighbor is only second to loving God.
      1. Love – *agapaō* – selfless love which serves its object in the way that is needed, or required.
      2. Ultimately concerns keeping the commandments of God – **(v. 40)**
         1. Of God – **John 14:15**
         2. Of neighbor – **Romans 13:8-10**
   2. Dress with the understanding that your appearance to another could be the cause of stumbling if it isn’t modest:
      1. **1 John 2:16** – lust of the eyes.
      2. **Matthew 5:27-30** – can sin with the eye by lusting after a woman – committing adultery in the heart.
      3. So we must be careful we are not the cause – **Luke 17:1-2**
      4. So we must provide honorable things before men – **2 Corinthians 8:21; 1 Corinthians 10:32-33**
         1. Treating others with purity – **1 Timothy 5:1-2**
         2. Especially brethren – treat opposite sex with purity – dressing modestly before them to avoid impure thoughts.
      5. How can we avoid fault in the matter, and provide honorable dress before men?
         1. Dress according to God’s standard of modesty.
         2. FOLLOWING GOD’S STANDARD IS HOW YOU LOVE YOUR FELLOW MAN.
8. Understand the Power You Wield
   1. “It’s not my fault men have dirty minds. They shouldn’t be looking at me in that way no matter what.”
      1. This manifests an ungodly character.
      2. This shows no regard for the soul of the other.
   2. Men are different than women especially in regard to their sexual drive – scientifically proven.
      1. Paul’s charge to young Timothy – **2 Timothy 2:22**
      2. The father’s instruction to a son in proverbs – **Proverbs 6:25-26**
   3. Each man has personal responsibility – **Job 31:1** – make a covenant with eyes.
   4. However, each woman is responsible for how she dresses, and whether that dress is a possible cause for the stumbling of that man.
9. Influence
10. The Command to be Salt and Light
    1. **Matthew 5:13-16** – We are to be salt and light.
       1. We are to season the world with our works of obedience to God to influence them to the same.
       2. We are to shine our reflecting light of Christ to influence them to come out of darkness.
    2. This cannot be done if we are flavorless. This cannot be done of our light is hidden by the darkness of conformity to the world.
11. Do they see your good works? Or are you just like them?
    1. Is it apparent that we do not dress in the same impure ways as the world?
    2. Is there any distinction between our dress and that of the world?
    3. Are we seen as being just like everyone else?
    4. Do those in the world who observe us see a consistency in our profession of godliness with what we wear? – If they don’t, we have tainted our influence. (**cf. Romans 2:21-24** – speak of godliness, holiness, purity, chastity – do we dress like it?)
    5. Consider:
       1. Are we in a place where immodest dress is inherent? (Water parks, public swimming pools, public beaches, etc.)
       2. Are we posting pictures of ourselves in immodest clothes on social media?
       3. Are we sharing, or “liking,” pictures of other people who are immodestly dressed on social media?
12. Raising Children in the Training and Admonition of the Lord
13. The Grave Responsibility of Parents
    1. **Ephesians 6:4** – with the Father’s at the helm, parents are supposed to bring their children up to know and follow the Lord. (**Proverbs 31:26-30** – the mother imparts spiritual wisdom in teaching as well)
    2. Negligence in training and admonishing children in the way of the Lord shows a disregard for the Lord yourself – **1 Samuel 2:29; 3:13** (Eli didn’t restrain his rebellious sons, Hophni and Phinehas)
    3. Negligence in training and admonishing children in the way of the Lord will result in a generation who does not know God – **Judges 2:10; Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
       1. A likely possibility of the coming about of the generation who didn’t know God was the negligence of the parents to teach them properly as God commanded.
    4. If parents are raising their children in the training and admonition of the Lord they will be teaching them about modest attire.
14. How else will they know?
    1. “Training” does not necessarily suggest an immediacy of understanding. (From childhood – consider)
       1. Training – *paideia* – the act of providing guidance for responsible living, upbringing, training, instruction, in our lit. chiefly as it is attained by discipline, correction. (BDAG)
       2. Providing guidance means they don’t know the way. Discipline them until they understand the way.
    2. When should this start?
       1. Timothy was taught from childhood – **2 Timothy 3:15** (By his mother – Eunice, and grandmother - Lois)
       2. Childhood – *brephos* – a very small child, baby, infant. (BDAG)
       3. It should start as early as any other teaching starts.
    3. Consider:
       1. If the child is not trained to know what modest clothes are when they are just big enough to start learning when will they be trained?
       2. Why is this topic different than anything else? (Again, not that they will fully comprehend all the implications, but they can still know what is proper attire.) (EX: SAWYER KNOWS)
       3. If a child is dressed with attire that does not meet God’s standard of modest dress because they are “just a child,” how will one be able to tell when they are old enough to start dressing properly, and how will that be explained to the child who is now all of the sudden told such dress is improper?

**Conclusion**

1. God commands that we dress modestly according to His standard.
2. This is because our dress must be a reflection of our inward man that is a Christian – professing godliness with good works.
3. Let us make the application of godliness to our dress, and be pleasing to our Lord.