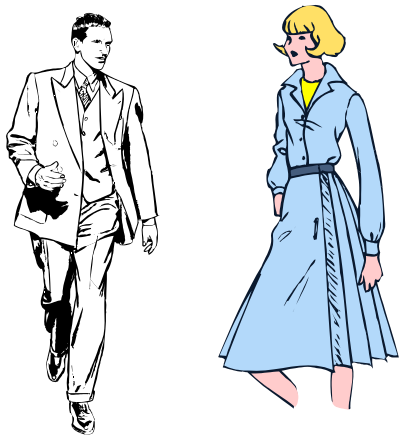
What the Bible teaches



about CLOTHING (Personal Attire)

After the fall of man, an obsession or preoccupation with nudity would be the tendency of sinful, fallen man; so God provided, and required clothing for a covering. Ge 3:21- Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

At least 5 Bible principles must be applied to the matter of clothing:

1.

1Ti 2:9 - In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in <u>modest apparel</u>

"Modest" - Orderly; proper; Well-arranged (so as to not draw undue attention to itself)

Your clothing says a lot about you.

- Your clothing should not be _____ (Rom.12:2)
- Your clothing should be acceptable to _____(Col.1:10; I Cor.10:31)
- Your clothing should be consistent with your _____ (II Cor.5:20: You are an "ambassador" for Christ)
- Your clothing should be appropriate for the _____ (For example: It is not proper to wear a bathing suit to church nor is it fitting to wear a dress horse back riding)

2.

1Ti 2:9 - In like manner also, that women adorn themselves… with <u>shamefacedness and sobriety</u>

> ***"Shamefacedness"*** - not revealing, suggestive, sensual or sexual orientated clothing; Wear the modest clothing of a godly woman, who would not blush in shame, because she does not wear that of a harlot.

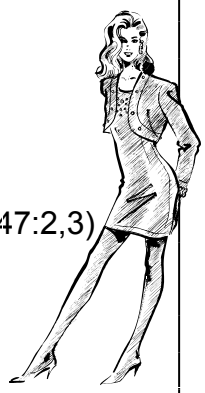
"sobriety" - sensible; clothing that reflects self-control & self-discipline.

Immodesty is associated with_____: *Re 16:15*
Immodesty is associated with_____:*Eze 16:36,38;* Pr 7:10
Immodesty is associated with _____:*Hab 2:15*
Immodesty is associated with_____:*Luke 8:27*

You should not dress so as to provoke the sexual interest and desire of others:
Mt 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.



Clothing on a woman should not be _____



Clothing on a woman should not be _____ (exposing the thighs) (Isa.47:2,3)

Clothing on a woman should not be _____(exposing the back or breasts)



1Ti 2:9 - In like manner also, that women adorn themselves…
not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array

Your clothing should be conservative. Your attire should not be overly elaborate, (drawing undo, vain attention to yourself), but should reflect humility.

4.

De 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

Men should wear that which would be considered _____

Women should wear that which would be considered _____

The clothing should honor God's plan for gender distinctiveness.

Compare the Bible's teaching about the distinctiveness of men and women with respect to hair length - *I Cor. 11:14,15*

5.

Prioritize God's Will over your concern about your clothing:

Mt 6:25 - Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Prioritize your spiritual internals over your physical externals

1 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.

What the Bible teaches about CLOTHING (Personal Attire)

After the fall of man, an obsession or preoccupation with nudity would be the tendency of sinful, fallen man; so God provided, and required clothing for a covering. Ge 3:21¶ Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

At least 5 Bible principles must be applied to the matter of clothing:

1. APPROPRIATENESS

1Ti 2:9 - In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in <u>modest apparel</u>, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

"Modest" - Orderly; proper; Well-arranged (so as to not draw undue attention to itself; Attention should be drawn to a godly woman's face (particularly her eyes) not her body. A person's joy, and inner character will emit itself particularly through the eyes - *Pr 15:30 - The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart.*

Your clothing says a lot about you.

- Your clothing should not be <u>worldly</u> (Rom.12:2)
  Romans 12:2
  And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- Your clothing should be acceptable to <u>God</u> (Col.1:10; I Cor.10:31)
  Col. 1:10
  That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
  1 Cor. 10:31
  Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

- Your clothing should be consistent with your <u>testimony</u> (II Cor.5:20: You are an "ambassador" for Christ)

- Your clothing should be appropriate for the <u>situation</u> (For example: It is not proper to wear a bathing suit to church nor is it fitting to wear a dress horse back riding)

2. MODESTY:

1Ti 2:9 - In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with <u>shamefacedness and sobriety</u>; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

"Shamefacedness" - not revealing, suggestive, sensual or sexual orientated clothing; Wear the modest clothing of a godly woman, who would not blush in shame, because she does not wear that of a harlot.

"sobriety" - sensible; clothing that reflects self-control & self-discipline.

Immodesty is associated with ***<u>shame</u>***:

Re 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Immodesty is associated with ***whoredom***:
Eze 16:36,38 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers…I will judge thee.
Pr 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

Immodesty is associated with ***drunkenness***:
Hab 2:15¶ Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

Immodesty is associated with ***demon possession***:
*Luke 8:27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and **ware no clothes**, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.*
After Salvation the man was clothed:
*35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, **clothed**, and in his right mind:*

No one's nakedness should be exposed to anyone other than one's spouse:
See Lev.18. Note: Le 18:6- *None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD.*

YOU SHOULD NOT DRESS SO AS TO PROVOKE THE SEXUAL INTEREST AND DESIRE OF OTHERS:

Mt 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

"Whosoever" - No one is exempt

"Looketh" - (present tense) - a long look, or a second look

When an immodestly dressed woman crosses your path, that first look is not sin, but it's that second look or the prolonged look that indicates a sinful heart.

"You can't keep birds from flying overhead, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair."

The look is not a casual glance, but a planned stare "for the purpose of feeding his inner sensual appetites as a substitute for the act" (Wiersbe, p. 24)

"On a woman" - the same principle applies to women who lustfully look upon men.

The reason why Jesus singled out the male looking at the female is because He knew that men are more prone toward being aroused by the appearance of a woman than a woman is toward a man. Depraved men take notice of the external looks of a woman, whereas women tend to take notice of a man based on his intelligence, strength, wit, charm, romance, etc.

Ladies, beware of how you dress (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.")

If lustful looking is so grievous a sin, then those who dress to expose themselves with the desire to be looked at and lusted over are equally or more sinful.

"Looketh on a woman" - This look does not have to be in real life, but may be:

1. on TV/videos/movies
2. in pornography
3. in peep shows at Times Square

"to lust after her" - The word "to" (pros) shows the intention or purpose of the look. It is not wrong to look at women. It is wrong when your "look" has as its goal a selfish, lustful, covetous gratification.

"Lust" - (epithumeo) = to have a strong desire for something. Desire is not wrong. But misplaced desire or desire outside of the will of God is wrong.

The word "lust" in this verse refers to a vain, base, immoral selfish craving or longing for that which is not yours. "Lust" is essentially "covetousness" (the tenth commandment), which is a desire to have that which does not belong to you.

"Hath committed adultery . . . already" - At the very moment that one entertained selfish, lustful thoughts, God up in heaven registers an act of "adultery."

"Jesus is not saying that lustful desires are identical with lustful deeds and therefore a person might just as well go ahead and commit adultery. The desire and the deed are not identical, but, spiritually speaking, they are equivalent." (Wiersbe, p. 24)

"In his heart" - Sin goes deeper than an act. God weighs the thoughts and intents of the heart. He looks at the heart. One can be free of committing the act of adultery, yet be guilty of adultery 10,000 times!

What we are in our heart is what we really are - in God's sight.

True righteousness is a heart matter. "You are what you think." "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7).

Every act of adultery started out as a "heart problem" (Mk. 7:21 - "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders.")

Real sin flows from and takes place first in the heart (or thoughts) of man.

"In his heart" - Since people are not animals, we have an aspect of our nature that goes deeper than our carnal flesh. People sin against their body by committing sexual sin (I Cor. 6:18) and sin against their "spirit" when they entertain evil thoughts.

Christian, remember, both your "body" and your "spirit" are God's (I Cor. 6:20)

Satan today is placing an overemphasis on sex to cause people to become obsessed with it. Once he can obsess a person with such thoughts, he can then provide a setting at the wrong place and at the wrong time to tempt that individual to experiment and gratify that obsession that he has caused.

Immoral sexual lust is not a biological need (like the need for food and sleep), but a perverted obsession.

In a child's life, sexual lust does not exist until fuel is supplied; books are read, pictures are seen, etc. The more fuel you feed a passion, the more it grows.

Jesus is not teaching that sex is a dirty thing, but it is a holy thing (It is to be sanctified and preserved for marriage).

Clothing on a woman should not be **tight**

Clothing on a woman should not be **above the knees** (exposing the thighs)

Clothing on a woman should not be **low cut** (exposing the back or breasts)

3. MODERATION

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

Your clothing should be conservative. Your attire should not be overly elaborate, (drawing undo, vain attention to yourself), but should reflect humility.

4. DISTINCTIVENESS:

De 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

Men should wear that which would be considered **Masculine**
Women should wear that which would be considered **Feminine**

What type of clothing (in our culture) would be considered masculine?
What type of clothing (in our culture) would be considered feminine?

The clothing should honor God's plan for gender distinctiveness.
Compare the Bible's teaching about the distinctiveness of men and women with respect to hair length -

> *I Cor. 11:14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? 15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.*

5. PRIORITIES:

Prioritize God's Will over your concern about your clothing:

> *Mt 6:25¶ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

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