

## MODEST DRESS

“To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecc. 3:1). We come to this season of the year; a season, it seems more people enjoy than other times of the year. This time of year there are matters to address that, quite honestly, are some that I wish I did not have to deal with. However, a preacher is exhorted to “Preach the Word; be instant in season and out of season...” (2 Tim. 4:2) and it is the season to consider the following:

**How the Outside Looks Depends on the Inside.** 1 Timothy 2:9-10 mentions three key words. The first, “modesty” is first of all a condition of the heart. This word means “orderly, well arranged, decent, modest” (Vine’s). It follows that a decent person will wear decent clothing and behave decently. The word “shamefacedness” conveys the idea of “a sense of shame, modest...” (Vine’s) or a natural sense of embarrassment with regard to being ill-clad before men to whom they aren’t married (like on a beach or at the pool, perhaps). The word “sobriety” in the KJV “denotes soundness of mind...sound judgment practically expresses the meaning...” (Vine’s). These three words obviously impart an obligation upon a woman to give careful thought to how her dress might complement her good works in “professing godliness.” God knew what He was saying when He placed this verse in the Bible. After all, did not Adam and Eve change when they realized they were naked (Gen. 3:7, 21)? First, fig leaves (7) then in (21), God made coats of skins and clothed them! Quite simply, brethren, we must not dress as the world.

Mary Martini from Hurst, Texas penned the following known as *The Dress Test for Women Professing Godliness*. This is some of the finest material I have read. She begins, “Look at yourself in a full length mirror - front, back, and side. Ask yourself these questions:

- Will what I’m wearing bring God glory (2 Cor. 10:31; Ex. 28:40, 43; Isa. 61:3) and portray me as a godly woman (1 Tim. 2:9-10)?
- Does what I’m wearing meet or exceed God’s standard for being modest (Gen. 3:21; Ex. 20:26; 28:40-43)?
- Will my clothing help or hurt my influence for Christ (Rom. 13:10; 15:3; Phil. 2:34)?

- Is it too short or tight? Sit down, cross your legs, bend over, squat down, reach up. At any time does the garment reveal any of your leg above the knees (Ex. 28:42), which emphasizes your sexuality, thus tantalizing, enticing, or tempting men to have impure thoughts (Matt. 18:7; Gal. 5:19-lasciviousness)?

- Is the neckline too low? Bend over-what can you see? Sit. Have another female tell you what they can see while looking down at you (men serving the Lord’s Supper say this is a real problem).

- Is it too sheer? Can I see my skin or undergarment through the material? With tops and blouses, is your midriff showing at anytime (Gen. 3:21)?

- If sleeveless, are my undergarments visible (Jn. 1:7)?

- Is it appropriate and respectful (Gen. 41:14; Matt. 22:11-14)? When I come to worship, would someone think I was going to a picnic or other social activity, or can they tell I’m giving my best in my worship to God (Ex. 20:26)?

- Because of how I’m dressed would someone mistake me for a worldly woman (harlot - Prov. 7:10; Gen. 38:15)?

- Is what I’m wearing stating that I’m dressed to be chaste (pure and holy) or chased (by men)?

- Will it encourage a man to lust after me, thus causing him to stumble and sin (Rom. 14:13; 1 Cor. 8:9; Matt. 5:27-28)? Remember, God may hold you responsible for wrong reactions if YOU dress inappropriately (Matt. 5:27-28; 14:1-12).”

Ms. Martini hits it exactly. It is worthy to consider such in this upcoming season and to know that “dressing less is not dressing the best” and indeed, “the outside expresses what’s inside.”

**Jeff Archey from *Eastside Edifier***

## IMMODEST DRESS – WHO’S WATCHING?

Jesus said, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Mt. 5:27-28). Remember, God is watching your life, including how you dress and whether or not you watch and lust after others (men and women) immodestly dressed (Prov. 15:3; Ps. 139:1-12? Gal. 5:19-24; Eph. 2:3; 2 Pet. 2:14, 18; 1 Jn. 22:16; 2 Tim. 2:22; Rom. 1:27).

Question - Is one in danger of losing his soul because of a lustful heart? What did Jesus say? Is Jesus pleased with the way you dress in public? What about the way you WATCH?

David committed adultery with Bathsheba. He watched her wash herself, sent and inquired about her, sent for and committed adultery (2 Sam. 11:1-5). Consider, If David, “a man after God’s own heart,” could so sin, and he did, let us take lest we fall (1 Cor. 10:11-12; Rom. 15:4). May the first few verses of 2 Samuel eleven serve as a warning to all of us just how quickly we fall into the depths of sin. Indeed, the power of sin in an unguarded moment, can ruin or hurt lives. Let us as Christians live as much like Christ as possible (1 Pet. 2:21) not like the sinful world around us (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Godly women (and men) will be careful to dress modestly (1 Tim. 2:9). Let us dress to please God not man. Also, watch that WATCHING, sinful thoughts can cost us our souls.

A preacher friend recently wrote in his bulletin about an elder in the Lord’s church who said, “I used to have swimming parties at my house, but I stopped it when I took time to observe how the men were looking at the women. I wanted no part in this.”

My friend told of another Christian who said, “Until a few years ago I simply was not convinced there could be anything wrong with public swimming.” What changed his mind? “On one occasion he and his wife were with another couple at the lake. When he saw his friend’s wife in her bathing suit he recognized immediately that he had thoughts about her which were wrong, and which he never would have had about her had she been properly clothed. He spent the rest of the afternoon with his back turned to her to avoid evil thoughts. He said he told himself over and over, ‘This is what preachers have been trying to tell me for the past twenty years and I didn’t believe them.’”

Let us give serious thought to the danger of sin in our dress and in our watching. We must strive to glorify God as His children and to set the right example for our young people and others (Matt. 5:13-16). Watch that WATCHING!

**Cliff Lyons from *Eastside Edifier* (1992)**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Barbara James, 07-02; Cindy Bright, 07-03.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM); Francis Thrasher.

**Wednesday:** Jeff Nemechek; Millie Robertson; Allen Scott. Francis Thrasher had some difficulties following her surgery.

**Those battling cancer:** David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph Franklin.

## **HOME BOUND**

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

Chris Edwards was in Chicago on business last week. Evan Pflugardt was in Austin, TX last week. Steve Brown was in Colorado visiting relatives last weekend. Debra Gragg is in Springfield, MO. Trent Thrasher is in Owensville, MO.

## **FBS MEETING**

There will be a meeting this Sunday at 5 PM for all of those who will be teaching and serving in our FBS.

## **POT LUCK DINNER**

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Sunday July 6, following our AM worship. Come and enjoy the good food and good company!

## **FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES**

The themes are: *“Walking In Son Light”* for Teens-Toddlers and *“Makeover for the Christian”* for Adults. The dates are July 28 – August 1.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 48; Sunday PM, 38; Wednesday PM, 27.

## **Those To Serve**

June 29, 2008

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson**  
**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Chris Edwards**  
**PRESIDE..... George Thomas**  
**ASSIST..... Jared Nelson**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Cody Carter**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown**  
**LORD’S SUPPER..... George Thomas**

**WEDNESDAY July 2nd**

**SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown**  
**INVITATION ..... Trent Thrasher**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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