

The earliest historical record of make-up, comes from the First Dynasty of Egypt (c. 3100-2907 B.C.). Tombs from this era have revealed unguent jars, which in later periods were scented. Unguent was a substance extensively used by men and women to keep their skin hydrated, supple and to avoid wrinkles from the dry heat. The women of Egypt also decorated their eyes by applying dark green color to the under line and blackening the lashes and the upper lid with kohl, which was made from antimony (a metallic element) or soot. It is believed that the Jews adopted the use of make-up from the Egyptians, since references to the painting of faces appear in the New Testament section of the Bible. So we see that make-up was not God's will for Israel (which is a type of church), but was a custom put upon them by the Egyptians (which was a type of Satan).

WHAT ABOUT BODY PIERCING AND TATTOOS?

The Bible declares in Leviticus 19:28 that, “Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord.”

There it is in its simplest form. We know and understand that no one should judge you for any tattoos you may already have, for when we come out from the world we should stop doing things that we did while we were in the world.

As for body piercing, the Bible speaks about our bodies being the temple of the Holy Ghost. We should not pierce our bodies. It used to be that only women had their ears pierced and it was only one hole in each ear. But now we have both men and women (even people after they become Christian) piercing their ears numerous times and not stopping there, but piercing their eyebrows, lips, nose tongue, belly buttons, and even other body parts. We must stop and consider, would the Lord want us to mutilate our flesh (sticking pieces of metal through any part of our bodies is considered mutilation)?

WHAT ABOUT JEWELRY?

The Scripture often associates jewelry with pride and idolatry. Look how consistently the association is made.

1 Timothy 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.”

When Jacob went back to Bethel to renew his relationship with God, he disposed of all the idols and earrings owned by his family.

Genesis 35:2, “Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that [were] with him, put away the strange gods that [are] among you, and be clean, and change your garments: and they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which [were] in their hand, and [all their] earrings which [were] in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which [was] by Shechem.”

LOOK AT GOD’S RESPONSE TO ISRAEL AFTER THEY MADE THE GOLDEN CALF OUT OF THEIR JEWELRY.

Exodus 33:4-6 “And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. For the Lord had said unto Moses, say not the children of Israel, Ye [are] a stiff-necked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.” (stiffnecked had to do with the long gold neck collars).

Where did God’s people get the jewelry anyway? —Exodus 11:2— God told them to borrow it from the Egyptian neighbors prior to their exodus: His intent was to use it for His use, not their personal ornamentation. This was due to its value, not vanity!

Another time Israel received gold from the Midianites, they offered it to God (which is the proper response, Numbers 31:50-51).

In Gideon’s day, Ishmaelites and Midianites were distinguished from the Israelites by their use of jewelry and earrings (Judges 8:24).

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: If pride and vanity is not the reason for wearing jewelry, then it should be no problem to dispose of it for the sake of your Christianity.

IN CONCLUSION

Over the past months, I have had many people come to me and ask where they can find our views on modesty in the Bible. This tract is to give information about where our views come from in the Word of God. As a Pastor, I cannot make anyone live by these Biblical devotions, but I must teach and instruct based on what the Word of God says. There are many that will read this track and still rebel, but remember that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23).

I must repeat myself when I say, these devotions are not for those that are not saved; we expect and desire the unsaved to come as they are, regardless of appearance. These Biblical devotions are for those that are saved (according to Acts 2:38), for those that have been filled with the Holy Ghost to help live lives that are pure and holy, in a spirit of holiness, acceptable to God. Balance and the spirit of holiness is our goal. I simply want to show you that the way you choose to dress and conduct your life is both essential and important to your salvation according to Acts 2:38-40.

“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” Acts 2:40



THE CENTER OF PENTECOST

SERVICES

Sunday 10AM & 6PM
Monday Prayer 7PM
Wednesday 7PM
Friday Prayer 7PM

Pastor Keith and
Donna Walker

5 N. Mustang Rd.
Tuttle, OK 73089
whpctuttle.com

MODESTY

COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY
ELDER KEITH J. WALKER



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MODESTY?

Take a look around you in a shopping mall, grocery store, at work, or at school and think about the people you see. It doesn't take long to realize that there are no two people exactly alike. Not only do physical features and sizes vary, but also people dress differently and conduct themselves in different ways. Over time it seems that every generation digresses in a lack of standards of dress or personal appearances. We live in a generation where many churches are now teaching to dress down and have a lack of respect for the house of God. Granted, the Word says, "come as you are", speaking of unbelievers. However, after you are saved, there is a change that comes to our life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 states, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" and Ephesians 4:24 says, "and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

WHAT IS MODESTY?

The Webster Dictionary defines **modesty** as this:

1. The quality of being modest; freedom from vanity, boastfulness, etc.
2. Regard for decency of behavior; speech, dress, etc.
3. simplicity; moderation

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MODESTY?

The Word of God has much to say about the subject of modesty. Our lifestyle, speech, dress; in essence how we conduct our lives as a Christian. We live in a generation that has lost its sense of decency and modesty. The word modesty is not a dirty word, but many who are liberal in their theology would like to place the word legalistic on anybody that stands for holiness. If you do a careful study of the Old and New Testaments, you will find that the Word of God has much to say about our lifestyle and how we dress.

INWARD MODESTY

Modesty is first inward, starting in a person's heart through salvation or the new birth (Matt 23:25-28, Ezek 36:26-27, Jer 24:7, Heb 8:10, Pro 4:23).

The Bible also speaks about modesty in putting off the old man and the works of the flesh. Galatians 2:16 says, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the words of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." So we see we need to live life after the Spirit. So we must have inward modesty before we can have outward modesty, we must start with a pure mind and heart (Gal 5:24, Phil 4:7-8, Eph 4:22-24).

KEYS TO BEING CONSISTENTLY MODEST IN YOUR INWARD MAN

- Be consistently obedient

- Work out your salvation (with fear and trembling [sincerity]; this is a short coming in our modern Christian culture)

- Obey His Word without complaining

- Because we will shine like light to this world

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."

WHY BOTHER WITH STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE?

1. Matthew 5:14, "Ye are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."
2. Every significant group has a uniform: those in the medical field, the military, Starbucks, even McDonalds. Why not the Church? (It is amazing how some will wear the most ridiculous and absurd costumes and uniforms in the name of a career or even just a minimum wage job, yet stumble at the idea of the church having a dress code? We should consider the signals we send God sometimes).
3. GREATEST OF ALL: When we build a house, the codes seem silly, overkill to the normal conditions, but when Hurricane Hugo came through, the USA did not sustain near the damage that the Caribbean did. Why? BUILDING CODES! (Standards), we are establishing a church that will sustain storms!
4. Reasonable standards help protect our spirituality. It is not bondage if it is done right! But in reality, it's freedom!

OUTWARD MODESTY

The key idea of modesty is that we should not lend ourselves to a flashy way of dress and costly array, but rather be distinguished by a proper Christ-like spirit. The reason behind this, being that anything that is in excess, unnatural, or draws unneeded attention to yourself is wrong. Women of the world spend so much of their finances on exterior aids to beautify...all of which are false. God wants you to focus on your spirit where true attraction takes place! Physical beauty fades no matter how much effort or money you put into it, but your soul lasts for eternity.

Let's examine a spiritual principle. Ever notice as the weather warms up, it becomes increasingly simple to distinguish God's people. Modesty never grows out of style in God's eyes. A Christian's modesty does not change with the weather!

Adam and Eve had their conscious awakened, when they fell into sin. The very first thing they did was cover themselves. Then we see that when man came once again into the presence of God for the first time, the first thing that God did was change fig leaves to skins (blood sacrifice). God's intentions since then are for humanity to be clothed. It has been stated: "the farther a civilized society declines, the more clothes it takes off." The reverse then is, the more civilized a society is, the more clothing it wears.

One thing is for sure; that the "unisex" styles of our day are ever growing in our society. It is specified in God's Word that there should be a distinction between male and female.

Deuteronomy 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."

This unisex style is driven by spirits that wish to put humanity into rebellion. Men and women are different: both physically and emotionally by creation. And God has placed certain social methods into place to maintain this difference, to guard against homosexuality and the decline of the family. Today we have women that look masculine and men that look feminine.

This is why we at the World Harvest Pentecostal Church teach the standard that women ought to wear dresses and skirts and men should wear modest clothing as well. It is an abomination for a woman to wear pants. We also teach that women should have long, **uncut hair** that is not trimmed (1 Cor 11:5-6) and men should have short hair. You may ask "where is this in the Bible?"

1 Corinthians 11:14-15 states, "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

In addition, our daily attire should be for gender distinction. Unmistakable, visual, identification of the sexes. In our culture (which is all we need to worry about), a man's attire is clear: pants trousers, slacks. Even the icon on the public restroom signs show this cultural truth. This could even change from culture to culture, but Deuteronomy 22 covers ALL CULTURES and all times. "Pertaineth to," refers to things traditionally associated with, or patterned after a man (slacks have indeed been masculine in our culture).

"Historically: WWII factories were the first time slacks started being worn by women. At the same time, short hair, cigarettes, and swearing became acceptable feminine behavior. It is this very path that has led to abortion, divorce single parent homes, and extreme feminism. We've come a long way, huh?

Some may have the thought, "pants are more modest than a skirt." It is interesting that every generation of women before us learned how to wear a skirt modestly. *As a matter of fact, a dress tends to change a women's actions to be more feminine. This is another benefit of the concept. Some women are immodest in a dress because they're so used to pants (based on how they sit, move, etc.)

WELL, WHAT ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF MAKE-UP?

Like we have stated before, anything that is taken to excess is unnatural or that draws attention to yourself is wrong. Make-up is simply designed for sex appeal; it has no other purpose. Therefore, women should not wear make-up. In the Bible, there was a large difference compared to women who wore make-up in excess and those that didn't. Notice the difference between Jezebel and Esther.

2 Kings 9:30, "And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard [of it]; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window:"

Esther 2:13-15, "Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house. In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name. Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter; was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her:"

The royal courts of the king used cosmetics and jewelry. Esther relied on inner beauty rather than make-up to win. BEAUTY RATHER THAN MAKE-UP TO WIN THE KING. All she used was oil of myrrh perfume and preparations to beautify the skin (i.e. perfumes, lotion, skin care, etc.).