

## **DRESS FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS** **(1 Timothy 2:9-10)**

### **I. Dress modestly.**

- A. Paul makes it very clear that we need to dress modestly (1 Timothy 2:9-10).
  - 1. This specifically mentions women in this passage.
  - 2. However, the command to be modest crosses gender lines.
  - 3. All of God's people must be modest dressers.
- B. The word "modest" literally means orderly or decent.
  - 1. It carries more than the idea of one's clothing.
  - 2. It also carries the idea of being orderly in one's inner life that is expressed in his outward life others can see.
- C. What Paul is saying is that we need to dress in such a way that shows to the world our inner life is orderly and in line with God's will.
- D. What is God's will on our dress?
  - 1. In the garden, Adam and Eve, when their eyes were opened to their nakedness, made coverings for themselves.
    - a. The Hebrew word is defined as a loin cloth.
    - b. We all know how much a loin cloth covers.
  - 2. God did not deem that sufficient and He clothed them.
    - a. The Hebrew word is defined as a tunic.
    - b. It was a garment that covered from the shoulders to the knees.
  - 3. The priests were to wear garments long enough that when they went up to offer a sacrifice on the altar, which was set higher than the people, their thighs were not to be exposed (Exodus 28:40-42).
- E. The Bible is not a ruler to use in measuring the length of shorts or a dress.
  - 1. It gives standards and one should learn what those standards are and conform to them.
  - 2. I have heard of the one inch rule and all types of things.
  - 3. However, what does the Bible give as its standard?
  - 4. In all that I have seen and studied, garments should come to the knee.
  - 5. This should be whether you are sitting down or standing.
    - a. Some things come to the knee when standing but fail to remain there when sitting.
    - b. Modesty is not something that is to be observed when standing and ignored when sitting.
- F. Garments don't need to be low enough to reveal the chest area of ladies or tight enough to reveal undergarments.
- G. I believe a good rule is that if someone can see what color your undergarments are then you need to change.
- H. The problem in all of this is that man's view of modesty changes.
- I. Again, we must conform to God's standard not man's.
- J. Some ladies and parents have said, "Well, there is just a bunch of dirty old

men at church.”

1. That may be but it does not excuse one who dresses immodestly.
  2. It is as much a sin to entice someone to lust as it is to lust.
- K. I do realize that some will lust if you wore a potato sack (2 Peter 2:14).
1. When that is the case, that person will answer for his lustfulness.
  2. There is nothing you can do about him, but there is something you can do about those men who want to do right but are enticed by immodest dress.
- L. And ladies, I have never met a man who, at some level, is not affected by immodest dress.
- M. One must remember that what is worn says a lot about the person (Proverbs 7:7-10).

## **II. Dress reverently.**

- A. Another word in 1 Timothy 2:9 is “shamefacedness.”
1. In Hebrews 12:28, the only other passage where this Greek word is used in the New Testament, it is translated “reverence.”
  2. It is reverence for that which is good.
- B. When we come to worship, we should show reverence to God.
1. God is worthy of worship (Revelation 4:11).
  2. God gives and sustains life (Acts 17:28).
- C. When God gave instructions concerning the priestly apparel, He gave instructions to create clothing that was decent, reverential and appropriate for the setting (Exodus 28).
1. They were to take those garments off when leaving the sanctuary.
  2. These garments were special and for God.
  3. They were not to wear common clothing while fulfilling their priestly roles before God and the people.
- D. You and I, as Christians, are a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).
1. When we come before God in worship we need to dress in a way that shows reverence for God.
  2. If that is what God demanded under the Old Law that was imperfect, what about under the “perfect law of liberty?”
- E. We should wear the best we have before God.
1. For some that will be a nice suit or dress.
  2. For others that may be overalls or pants.
  3. For some in certain parts of the world it is some type of robe or cloak, but it is to be the best.
- F. Now we should keep in mind that our best should be modest.
- G. We should also keep in mind our attitude towards what we buy.
1. If we are purchasing things that keep us from having clothes that are reverential to God we need to look at that on which we spend our money.
  2. Our relationship with God comes before all else (Matthew 6:33).

## **III. Dress thoughtfully.**

- A. When we dress we should think of others.
- B. Again, how we dress affects the way people view us or think about us

(Proverbs 7).

- C. We should never want to give people the wrong impression of us.
  - 1. We can't help the way some people think as we noticed.
  - 2. But others we can and we never want to hurt our influence with them.
- D. Also, we may dress in a way that is not sinful but our brethren may have a problem with it.
  - 1. If my brethren have a problem with it, I am going to defer to them.
  - 2. Not because they are right or wrong, but because that is how unity is maintained (Ephesians 4:1-3).
- E. If we give some thought, we know what is modest and what isn't.
  - 1. Our children may not and we need to teach them.
  - 2. We shouldn't let them wear clothing or uniforms, cheerleader or athletic uniforms, that are immodest.
  - 3. Dad's need to speak up in this area.
  - 4. We ought to look at clothes our daughter wants to wear and think about what other guys would think about her in that.
- F. A rule of thumb should be, if you have to ask if it is immodest it probably is.
- G. We should give great thought to what we put on.