

A MESSAGE ABOUT MODESTY

(1 Peter 3:1-5)

I. Modesty is a way of life.

- a. Christianity is supposed to be a way of life.
 - i. By that we mean it influences everything we do.
 - ii. The way we talk, what we look at, and even, how we dress is influenced by being a Christian.
- b. When it comes to modesty, there seems to be two extremes:
 - i. One is that modesty is not a big deal.
 - 1. This is the one society presents and this has infiltrated those who profess to be Christians.
 - 2. Society always creeps into the church.
 - ii. The other is to set prescribed limits on lengths and depths.
 - 1. It must come to the knee or below.
 - 2. The neckline has to be a turtleneck.
- c. More than likely, most of us will tend towards the second extreme.
- d. What we end up doing is creating standards that are arbitrary and in the eyes of some, radical.
- e. The truth is, the Christian needs to understand that modesty is a way of life.
- f. By that, I mean that modesty is a disposition of the heart first and foremost.
- g. You and I both know that our children, and daughters in particular, could follow every modesty rule we might devise and still be provocative and immodest.
- h. 1 Peter 3:3-5.
 - i. Modesty begins in the heart.
 - ii. It is having the right attitude about how one wants to present her or himself.
- i. Arbitrary rules are often met with hostility and defiance.
 - i. If we can teach ourselves first and then our children that modesty is an attitude of the heart first and foremost, the hostility and defiance towards rules will diminish.
 - ii. Modesty is a way of living, a part of Christianity, above all else.

II. Modesty is about serving God.

- a. God created us.
 - i. He created the body of men to be masculine.
 - ii. He created the body of women to be feminine.
- b. What we must remember is that because God created us, we belong to Him.
- c. Since we belong to Him, we are to use the body He created to bring Him glory and honor.
- d. We need to be teaching our children that their bodies are to be saved for one person, the person they will one day marry.

- i. That child we love will one day give her/himself fully to her/his spouse.
 - ii. Body and all.
 - iii. God is pleased with that because He created marriage for that purpose.
 - e. Often, I've heard that young Christians feel as if sex is bad or dirty because of the way we've taught them about modesty and fornication.
 - f. Sex isn't dirty or bad when it is in the proper context of marriage.
 - g. Our children need to know that they are only to present themselves in a sexual way to the one to whom they are married, not the one they are going to marry or not the one they are thinking about dating to see if they want to marry.
 - h. By presenting themselves in that way only to their spouses, they are serving God.
 - i. This doesn't mean that our children have to wear burlap sacks for clothing.
 - j. Wisdom must be used, though, so that dress is shown to be serving to God and not sexually charged to man.
- III. Modesty if about serving others.**
 - a. This is the point in the sermon where it may sound sexist because it is true.
 - b. It doesn't matter what anyone says, the truth is, if a female dresses in a way that is very revealing, it will tempt most men to lust after her.
 - i. This is just a statement of fact.
 - ii. If you argue this with me, it just means you don't know men well at all.
 - c. With that in mind, modesty becomes a way to not only serve God, but serve others as well.
 - d. If we think about it properly, dressing modestly is a way of practicing the golden rule.
 - i. We want others to treat us the way we want to be treated.
 - ii. Do we want others to flaunt temptation in our faces?
 - e. What a person does, especially a female, when she/he dresses modestly is put the interest of others before her/himself.
 - f. The way we dress, and especially females, directly effects those around us.
 - g. Causing someone else to be tempted is a serious matter (Matthew 18:6).
 - i. Some will say, well he is the pervert with the problem.
 - ii. True, but we don't need to serve to make his problem worse.
 - h. What bothers me a lot of times is that dads do nothing about it and they know how boys think and how other men think.
 - i. Being tempted to lust after an immodestly dressed female is a temptation for most Christian men.
 - ii. A father who sees his daughter in something that is immodest ought to know what other males are going to be thinking about that.
 - iii. If you're fine with your wife or daughter being thought of like that, then you have some serious problems.

From an article by Stephen Altrogge.