

APPROPRIATE APPAREL

TEXT: *1 Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*

CONFUSION!

"...male and female created He them."

INTRO.: A. **PERSONAL CONVICTIONS:** As a believer in Christ I am supposed to have convictions that set me apart from the world. I am to be a "peculiar" (different from the world) person. As a child of God I ought never to do, say, act or dress like anything less than that lofty position would demand. As a Christian it is possible to have "convictions" which are not necessarily "thus saith the Lord". (For example, some have "convictions" regarding holidays like Christmas which they correctly believe have pagan roots. Others believe that it is proper to observe a special day to remember the birth of Christ. Who is right? The answer is that both are right, since there is no clear-cut command or prohibition in the Word of God.)

Rom 14:1-7 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

B. **BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS:** Personal convictions which are strongly held are not binding on other believers. But biblical convictions are based on clearly defined statements from God's Word. These are beliefs that are Bible based and therefore are binding on all believers who desire to be pleasing to the Lord. God's Word is to be the believer's guidebook in all matters of faith and practice. It is wrong to call oneself a "Bible believer" and then ignore what the Bible says. This study is an attempt to present what the Bible has to say about how a Christian is to dress. The apparel of the Christian is not simply to be clothing to keep us warm, but to cover our bodies. In Creation God created a man and woman who were without sin and thus nakedness was not shameful or sinful. But as soon as Adam & Eve sinned God clothed them to hide their nakedness. He clothed them with "**coats...**" not aprons or bikinis! Their feeble attempt to hide their nakedness with tree leaves was completely inadequate in the eyes of a holy God.

C. **PASTORAL CONVICTIONS:** The pastor of a church must arrive at convictions which are Bible based and teach his people those scriptural guidelines. I have developed an acrostic which I believe enables the believer to help him or her regarding APPROPRIATE APPAREL using the word **DAMP**.

- D** – Decent
- A** – Appropriate
- M** – Modest
- P** – Proper

I believe that when this test is applied to our attire a Christian will know whether or not his or her dress is Christ honoring and pleasing to the Lord. For example: some clothing may be appropriate (for the beach), but not decent or modest (most bathing suits). Or clothing may be proper (a dress), but not modest (low cut or too short or too tight). By the way, modesty isn't just for women! Men need to be careful as well. (Women lust, just like men perhaps not as much as men due to biological differences. There was not only a Playboy magazine, but a Playgirl magazine!)

As a pastor a man of God must study the Scriptures to determine what biblical convictions will set the tone for his family and his flock. He must then pass on those convictions to the people he is called to lead. He does this first by example, then by teaching and preaching. He then must allow the Holy Spirit to convict and convince his church. Some standards should be set forth to the church members in the church statement of faith or in guidelines in print. Then when a person becomes a member he or she will know in advance what is expected of them as Christians and as members of the church. Those guidelines should be established and members will be expected to respect them. A higher standard for leaders (teachers, deacons, etc.) may be demanded. In other words some guidelines are universal – (example: adultery is wrong for everyone in the church) – whereas other convictions and standards are applied to those who are in public positions and will be mandatory. From time to time fashions and fads will arise in the world at large and believers should be aware that they are not of the world and should not just go along. For example: long hair styles for men became popular due to the Rock & Roll influence, so standards were set in the church for leaders (anyone in the public spotlight, e.g., choir members, those who hold offices, those who do special music, etc.). God says ***"it is a shame for a man to have long hair"***. This standard is biblical of course, but until Christians began to adopt worldly standards there was no need to teach and preach against it. Then it needed to be enforced for those in public positions. Members-at-large would then hopefully follow the example set, however, there would be no enforcement of this standard beyond leaders and workers. (It seems a shame that some Christian leaders and workers need a constant reminder of the fact that *they should set the example.*) It is always embarrassing to have to go to bus workers, teachers, etc. to tell them that they are slipping. They should have enough character, dignity and integrity to conform without being reminded.

Now let's deal with some specific areas where Christians seem more ready to follow the world than God's Word...

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

PERSONAL NOTE: I have spent hours of research in God's Word and much time in prayer about this subject. I have no desire to be offensive or to force my convictions on someone else, but I would ask you to be willing to do as I have done before agreeing or disagreeing with me. If you can honestly say, after doing so, that you still disagree, then that is where we will have to leave it – between you and the Lord. I only ask that you allow me the same liberty. Thank you.

QUESTIONS:

Q. What about sports activities, etc. for women?

A. For years (even centuries) modest women have maintained a consistency in dress. For example: culottes may be worn (having the appearance of a skirt coupled with modesty) or slacks may be worn under a dress to maintain the appearance of femininity, while at the same time satisfying the demands of modesty. I noticed that in a sports tournament recently that the girls who used to wear culottes have now degenerated wearing into shorts. (🙄)

Q. What if I am not convicted against women wearing pants?

A. It is not a matter of conviction, but of revelation in the Word of God. Many say *"I have not been convicted about smoking."* But it is still against God's Word.

NOTE: *Now so-called women's attire includes tights or form fitting leggings that reveal every curve, bulge, crack and crevice of a woman's body! How far are women to go in following worldly fashions?! Why bother to wear any clothing at all, ladies?*

Q. But does the Bible say anything specifically about slacks for women or ladies jewelry for men?

A. No, but neither does it say anything specifically about smoking, drugs, and other modern sins, but the principle applies regardless. There is no double standard. God is concerned what about men put on their bodies as well as what we allow into our bodies (the temple of the Holy Spirit).

Q. But is it unfeminine to wear slacks, pants, etc.?

A. Ask your husband, boyfriend or son. Better still, get on your knees and ask the Lord. In fact, answer these questions honestly in your heart ladies. *"Do I FEEL more or less feminine in pants? Do I LOOK more or less feminine in pants.?"*

Q. How will wearing clothing of the opposite sex affect my testimony for Christ?

A.

1. It shows rebellion to God's Word and that will harden your heart.
2. Try winning some man to Christ while wearing pants, ladies (or guys wearing earrings, etc.). You may as well wear a mini-skirt or dangle a cigarette from your lips as far as he is concerned. Go ahead, ask him!
3. Wearing clothing of the opposite sex will teach you to sit, walk and act less like your gender. It will have the same effect on your children.
4. It will show the lost that you do not care if your church holds the standards of God's Word or not, where you are personally concerned. (Read that again.)
5. It shows disrespect for your spouse's, pastor's or God's authority – or all of the above.
6. It will create a bitter spirit and a complaining attitude in your heart every time you receive a rebuke from God's Word or God's man on the subject. Maybe you can see this already.
7. It will hurt your example to your children.
8. Is it O.K. if a man wears a ladies dress?

Q. What about tattoos for Christians?

A. **"Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord."
Leviticus 19:28

Q. But if our pastor preaches against this in public services, won't it hurt the cause of Christ and discourage the unsaved?

A. No more than preaching against any other sin the saint or sinner may be guilty of. The Bible says that a faithful pastor must preach the Word with reproof, rebuke and exhortation. If we are faithful to God's Word He will be faithful to us and bless us accordingly. Of course the preacher must always maintain a balance in his preaching and teaching and not harp on any given subject, and of course no man of God will deliberately offend the saved or the lost unnecessarily.

Q. What about in the privacy of our own home?

A. If you are certain your testimony will not be involved you may wear whatever you please, but be aware that you are still a Christian and God still sees you.

Q. Isn't it O.K. as long as I do not dress inappropriately at church or church activities?

A. Yes, IF you believe that the church building is where God dwells. But, in fact, He dwells within your body if you are saved. Thus if it is wrong in a church building, it is just as wrong as to wear them anywhere.

CONCL.: The believer in Christ has liberty in Christ. He may choose to please Christ or him or herself. However, that liberty is actually limited by several principles:

1. Does it offend another brother or sister in Christ? 1 Cor. 8:13
2. Does it have the appearance of evil? 1 Thes. 5:22
3. Does it smack of the world? 1 Jn.2:15-17; 2 Cor. 6:14-17
4. Does it harm my body? 1 Cor. 3:16,17; Gal. 6:7,8
5. Does it grieve or quench the Holy Spirit? Eph. 4:30
6. Does it violate any principle in God's Word? Jn. 15:10-14
7. Does it hurt my testimony? Mt. 5:14-16
8. Does it reflect the love of Christ? Jn. 15:11-13
9. Does it hinder my walk for Christ or my service for Him? Heb. 12:1
10. Do I wish to be found like this at Christ's coming for His Bride? 1 Jn. 2:28

As a church we can lower our standards and not ask our members to violate the above in services, in the choir, while doing special music, working in the bus ministry, going soul-winning, etc. But you say "I am not willing to go THAT FAR!" Well, aren't you serving Christ ALL THE TIME? And aren't we supposed to be a witness ALL THE TIME? And shouldn't we uphold Bible principles ALL THE TIME or only when we are directly involved in some public ministry?

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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.

This paper is not written to be divisive, unpleasant or to make me unpopular (I unknowingly do that on my own, without trying!) I never knowingly preach or teach anything just to be offensive. I can only teach and preach the Word of God as I understand it and I can do no more than that. I have an honest desire to be the best and most consistent Christian and pastor I can be. I love God's people and want to be loved. I wish you could see my heart. However I cannot disregard honest, personal, pastoral or biblical convictions to do so.

I am sure you would not want me to do so. God bless you as you serve Him.

MODESTY AND MORALITY:

Gods' Word teaches that a woman ought always to dress modestly.* Question: do slacks or pants or tights or leggings enable a woman to do so? Ask any man, ladies. A woman's body was not built to wear pants. The wide hips and rear protrusion along with the manner in which slacks on a woman emphasize and outline her female private parts may cause a man to "look with lust" at her body in a way that not only causes sin in the man's heart, but will bring guilt to the woman who is responsible for his sin. It takes two! The man looks with lust and commits adultery in his heart ***"with her..."*****

It is therefore not only a matter of maintaining sexual distinctions, it is a matter of modesty and morality.

MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY:

The Unisex Generation which has spawned long-haired men and mini-skirted women and pant's wearing women, Women's Lib, the occultist revolution, men's hair stylists, women's barber shops, men's nylon or silk underwear, bikinis, thongs, the no bra look, Gay Liberation, same-sex marriage, transgenderism and other forms of ungodliness all have one thing in common – to wipe away maleness for men and femininity for women. It started in the 1950's with the Beatles and "Rock and Roll" (*a euphemism for sexual relations*), the drug culture and teen rebellion. The "uniform" for this godless movement is suggestive, revealing, mixed up clothing for men and women.+^

SLACKS AND SEX:

Until the last several decades only "Tom boys" or "tough women" wore pants or slacks.* (*Check the photos of the years before the 1950's Sexual Revolution.*) Even Hollywood films portrayed ladies as wearing dresses. Until then every hospital, many offices and public buildings (and churches!) had signs indicating "*slacks and shorts for women are inappropriate attire.*" (Think about that.) Nurses used to wear dresses! In fact, women in many businesses where decorum and professionalism is mandated, still wear dresses. Whenever a woman wants to portray herself as feminine she still prefers a dress. The fashion industry (always interested in a fast buck) latched onto this new fad and has made it difficult to find truly feminine attire. (For example, ladies go to Wal-Mart and look for a dress!)

****"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety..."
1 Timothy 2:9***

*****"But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:28 (It takes two!)***

***+ "Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...shall inherit the kingdom of God...all things are lawful to me but all things are not expedient..."
1 Corinthians 6:9-12***

***^ "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing..."
2 Corinthians 6:17***

****"For after this manner in old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are..."
1 Peter 3:5,6***

*****"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." 1 Peter 3:7***

Now only high-end, fashion-conscious stores promote femininity. The ladies department store racks are loaded with pants for women and dresses or modest skirts are a rarity.

The Bible however, has not changed!** From cover to cover the clear-cut distinctions between male and female are stressed. Humanly speaking, the outward appearance through different clothing upheld these distinctions. Men wore one kind of garments and women another.**+

Whatever the clothing was, it maintained obvious distinctions which announced to the everyone the sex of the one wearing that garment. For a woman to wear men's garments was to announce sexual deviation. For a man to wear "women's garments" was to declare homosexuality.

REBELLION AND REPERCUSSIONS:

The "*natural man*" in each of us rebels at God's chain of command. (God, Christ, the Church, Man, Woman, Children) But the God-blessed church, home or person is always the one which follows His plan. The signs of the times point to Christ's soon return.* Let us not be "***ashamed at His coming***". Follow His plan. Lay aside your rebellion. Accept your sexual role and stay within its peculiar boundaries and framework. Men – be men! Women – be ladies! Act like it. Talk like it. Feel like it. Dress like it. Then praise the Lord for it!**

SUBMISSION AND SUBJECTION:

The role of the male and female in the Bible is clearly outlined in God's Word.+ No one can effectively dispute this. Men may not take the leadership in the home – especially in America – and women may rebel at the thought of submission and subjection to their husbands (while the divorce rate soars), but it is in the Word of God and we will all give an account to Him one day SOON!

The move to mix the genders is Satanic and undermines the Holy Scriptures and God's authority. Of course we are now at the place in America where the population in general has accepted homosexuality (ask your kids!). It has been pushed down our throats by the media in news, commercials and even in cartoons. THINK! Now we are

moving towards an acceptance of transgenderism. My solution to that issue is simple. After a shower and before getting dressed, stand in front of a mirror. Problem solved!! **"...male and female created He them"** Historically, every society which has followed this trend (e.g., wigs and lace for men and pants and guns for women) and has written its own prescription for destruction. Today in China and Russia and other Communist countries the women and men all dress alike, work alike, dig ditches alike, serve in the military, and die alike.

+"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections, for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise the men..." Romans 1:26,27



Have you ever noticed that rest room and clothing changing rooms use these symbols? The ladies side always portrays her in a dress! How else would anyone know which side is theirs?

****"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..." 2 Corinthians 54:10***

*****"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." Deut. 22:5***

+"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Genesis 1:27

++"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 2 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use fo the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." Romans 1:26,27

Men, don't let them take away your wife or daughter's femininity! Women's Lib is the Devil's Fib. Hate it! Fight it! Or – give in and die under it. America IS dying...don't be a part of the spreading cancer.

Sodom and Gomorrah are classic examples of sexual confusion. Whole continents have been "given up" by God for similar sins. Rome and all its splendor was buried because of the men becoming effeminate, lazy and lethargic. It CAN happen here. It IS happening here, with the homosexual agenda being promoted and same-sex marriage now legal in 37+ states (as of this writing). Remember, one of Satan's key character traits is subtlety.

We recognize that women are generally smarter than men and men are usually stronger than women. This is not about differences between the sexes, but about what God's Word clearly teaches.

A final challenge: please let me know if you find any of the above to be unscriptural or doctrinally deficient. I will gladly hear your concerns and discuss them with you.

Dr. Paul C. Fedena

This study is not meant to be comprehensive or controversial. It is a simple attempt to give general guidelines and common-sense solutions to a growing problem in our Bible believing churches!

