

IMMODEST APPAREL

The attitude of many people regarding the subject of immodest apparel is apathy, indifference, and sometimes even distain. I recognize that this subject is not a popular one in our day and age. The secular world, certainly, rejects the principles of modesty set forth in God's word, and evidence of that fact is seen everywhere. A person, for example does not necessarily have to go to the beach to see scantily attire. No, all they have to do is go shopping at the local mall and they see how common it is for people to dress immodestly! The world has been on a moral decline for some time and immodest dress is surely a reflection of that decline. But I am not so much concerned with the world as I am with those who are professed followers of Jesus Christ. After all, *"the whole world lieth in wickedness"* (I John 5:19), but Christians are to be different. While immodesty characterizes the world, the Christian is to *"live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world"* (Tit. 2:12). Dear Christian, what is your attitude toward this most important subject? I do not hesitate to say that some members of the church are less than enthusiastic when the subject comes up. Yet, biblical principles are given in the Scriptures that govern how we are to dress. Are you interested in learning about these principles and live accordingly?

Contrary to the way some people act, this is a Bible subject. The Apostle Paul writes, *"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; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."* (I Tim. 2:9-10) No one can seriously consider those words of the apostle and then entertain the notion that the Scriptures aren't concerned about the way we dress! He says that women are to adorn themselves in "modest apparel." The word modest refers to that which is "orderly, well-arranged, decent" (Vine, p. 761). Paul is showing that a Christian woman is to put time and thought into what she wears. In other words, she is not to just throw anything on, but her attire is to be orderly, becoming, and arranged in such a way as to cause her to be esteemed by all for being the godly woman that she is. Indeed, the way Christian women dress should be the outward expression of a well ordered, disciplined life in Christ!

Also, Paul says that Christian women should dress in a manner *"which becometh women professing godliness."* Yes, a Christian

woman has a godly profession and her attire should complement and exemplify the life of holiness she is pursuing. Obviously she cannot profess godliness while at the same time dressing in a way that is shameful and disgraceful. Christian women who possess the sense of modesty and soberness Paul writes about, will neither "overdress" nor "underdress." To "overdress" in a manner that goes beyond the bounds of moderation and where one becomes gaudy is to reveal a heart that is motivated by vanity and a false sense of values. To "underdress" is to lack the sense of shame - what is called "shamefacedness" in 1 Timothy 2:9 - that would lead a person to cover the shame of his nakedness (Rev. 3:18).

However, not only do we have a problem with women undressing in public, but men are just as bad. Yet, God clothed both the man and the woman in Genesis 3:21 and Christian men also need to keep their shirts and pants on in public! Incidentally, a person can have some clothing on and still be "naked" in the biblical sense of that term, as it applied to Peter in John 21:7. Adam Clarke says that the term "naked" is often used to signify the absence of the upper garment only. In other words, since Peter was only partially clothed on that occasion, he was said to be "naked." Likewise, many are "naked" today when they are "thinly-clad" in their immodest apparel!

Immodest, clothing can lead to lust, temptation, and sin. *"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."* (Mat. 5:27-28) When a woman dresses in a matter to entice a man to look at her and lust, then she also sins. *"It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."* (Luke 17:1-2) We might face up to the fact that some garments are designed for that very purpose! Mary Quant, the fashion designer who is the mother of the mini-skirt, was quoted as saying, "Mini clothes are symbolic of those girls who want to seduce a man..." Swimsuits, of course are designed for the purpose of attracting the opposite sex. Christian women must decide if they want to be chaste or chased. *"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."* (Tit. 2:4-5) Such ungodly apparel as mini-clothes, shorts, see-through blouses, halters, tight outfits, and low-cut dresses must be

rejected by the Christian! Such clothing falls under the definition of lasciviousness, a work of the flesh that will cause one to miss heaven. *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness."* (Gal. 5:19-21)

A good question to ask yourself is, "Does the clothing I wear enhance my reputation as a Christian?" When we meet people, one of the first things they notice about us is the way we are dressed. Let us use this as an avenue to let our light so shine before men (Mat. 5:16).

From an article by **BILLY DICKINSON**
Submitted by **Harry Cobb**

APOLOGIA

QUESTION: Can you explain repentance? I have a hard time explaining this concept to others so I guess I do not properly understand it myself.

ANSWER: With all the religious confusion in the world we are not surprised that many are confused on some of the most basic and fundamental truths of the scripture. It is always a joy to have one express the willingness to study the scripture and to learn the truth that God has delivered unto us. Some have totally closed their mind to the Word and others have allowed denominational tradition to be a filter through which they read the Bible. The reader is to be commended for their honesty and their willingness to learn the truth of God.

Repentance is a fundamental part of God's message to man. Consider if you will the following passages:

Luke 24:45-47- *"And He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, Thus it is written and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem ."*

Acts 2:38- *"Then Peter said to them, "Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 3:19- *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."*

Acts 17:30-31-*"Truly the times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."*

Many other passages could be given but these should suffice to show the importance of repentance in God's plan for man. Now that we have established the need for repentance we turn our attention to its meaning.

One of the most significant passages on the subject of repentance is found in 2 Corinthians 7:9-10. Here we find Paul saying,

"Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

There are several wonderful gems of truth that can be gleaned from this passage. The first is that this passage dispels the misconceptions concerning repentance. This passage shows that repentance is not just being sorry about your sin. It is plainly stated that repentance is the outcome of godly sorrow but godly sorrow is not repentance. Another misconception is that repentance is a changed life. Acts 3:19 indicates that repentance and conversion are two separate things. Note that Peter says we are to *"repent and be converted."* Just as godly sorrow leads to repentance so repentance leads to conversion or a changed life.

The word translated repentance is from the Greek word *metanoeo*. This is a compound word from the word *meta* which means change and *noeo* which means mind or thought. Thus the proper definition of repentance is to change ones mind or purpose. Consequently as it applies to the gospel, we are to change our mind and decide to turn away from sin and be turned to God and His way. As was

noted above repentance is preceded by sorrow and is followed by a life that is changed or transformed.

Paul continues in 2 Corinthians 7 and clearly illustrates what repentance looks like in the one who has repented. He writes in verse 11,

"For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner. What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication!"

Paul points out that godly sorrow produces several changes in those who possess it. He differentiates between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. These are not the same. Worldly sorrow is a selfish kind of sorrow. It stems from a mindset that one is sorry that one got caught. Worldly sorrow is self-centered and therefore does not produce godly change in one's thinking. To think godly we must move from self to Him.

Godly sorrow on the other hand is a sorrow directed toward God. It is driven by sorrow over having sinned against God. Also factored in is the price that God paid to have our sins removed. Godly sorrow does not produce regret but rather suffers loss of nothing. It also produces repentance leading to salvation.

As noted above Paul's writing in 2 Corinthians informs us of the indicators of repentance. Let's note each individually and make application to our own life.

The first mentioned is that of diligence. The King James Version uses the term carefulness. It means to be earnest, zealous, and being quick to do what is right. This is why obedience should be immediate when one discovers the will of God.

The second thing Paul mentions is clearing self. This has reference to being free from blame. We need to quickly stop doing wrong and to respond to God's offer of forgiveness when we realize that we are guilty of sin.

Another characteristic is indignation. This word means a type of anger or hatred. When we apply this to our situation we are to be angry over and have a hatred for our sin.

Paul also mentions fear. Fear as used here is not the fear of godly respect but rather it is the fear that is to be associated

with sin. When we sin we need to be afraid! We need to be filled with fear lest the sin be repeated or not removed quickly!

Vehement desire has the meaning of having a fervent wish. We desire to be right in God's eyes.

Zeal is an eagerness expressed in pursuing something. The pursuit should be of godliness.

Lastly we see the word vindication. Vindication is another word for revenge. This expresses a desire to see justice done and to do the right thing!

True repentance cannot be driven by apathy or half-hearted service. It must be out of a sincere desire to do the will of God so that He might be glorified.

Every truth that we find in the scripture is profitable if applied to our lives in a personal way. So it is with the truth concerning repentance. We have shown that the Gospel of Christ if properly presented will call those who receive it to true repentance. True repentance is the result of believing the truth about Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection, and our sin. If we believe that we are sinners and that one Jesus died for us then repentance is the command to obey. Since it is a command then it is not some mysterious better felt than told experience but rather is a matter of will. It is a changing of our minds, of the way we think, and then a turning away from sin and be turned unto God. Far too many people choose to turn away from sin but fail in turning to God who can save them. True repentance acknowledges the need for both.

SAM DICK
Cave City, KY

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES

March 31 –
April 2

April
3 - 7

LOCATION

Valley Congregation
Valley, AL

Chestnut Grove Congregation
Parksville, KY
Near Danville, KY

SPEAKER

Chris Richardson
(Leitchfield, KY)

Joe Hill
(Hager Hill, KY) &
J.D. McDonald
(Woodbury, TN)

April 3 – 7	Goochtown Congregation Near Eubank, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
April 7 – 9	Dowell Hill Congregation Columbus, IN	Joe Hamm
April 7 – 9	Winchester Congregation Winchester, OH	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 10 – 14	Oak Grove Congregation Eubank, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
April 16 - 21	West Broad Street Congregation Wedowee, AL	Don Avaritt (Conway, AR)
April 21 – 23	Pleasant Ridge Congregation Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
April 22 - June 1	Mission journey to Africa	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL), Danny Abercrombie (Gay, GA) & Gabe Cogburn (Sierra Vista, AZ)
April 28 – 30 Fri. and Sat. 7:30 PM EST Sun. 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM EST	Antioch Congregation Douglasville, GA	Bill Prince, Jr. & Chad Prince (Oxford, AL)
April 28 – 30	Verona Congregation Verona, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
April 28 – 30	Willow Oaks Congregation Russell Springs, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who were the sons of Joseph and Asenath as recorded in Genesis?
2. How old was Isaac when he married?
3. When Jesus healed a group of ten lepers, to whom did He tell them to go?
4. What does the Psalmist say all the earth will one day do?

5. Before God, what does Job see mortal man's greatest problem to be?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Which one of Judah's daughter-in-laws tricked him by portraying a harlot? TAMAR (Gen. 38:4-15)
2. By what means did God first narrow down the number of men Gideon was to use to fight the Midianites? ALL MEN WHO WERE AFRAID WERE TOLD TO RETRUN BACK (Judg. 7:3)
3. With whom does Romans 12 say to live in peace, if it is possible? WITH ALL MEN (Rom. 12:18)
4. According to David in Psalms, what did the people go through besides fire? WATER (Psa. 66:12)
5. Were God's people allowed to worship the sun, moon, or stars? NO (Deut. 4:19)