

THE TRENTON BULLETIN

Modesty (Kristen Clark)

God is passionate about His children honoring Him with every area of our lives. The Bible makes it clear that everything we do should be for the purpose of bringing God glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." For me, dressing modestly is rooted in that very purpose.

I desire to bring God glory with my body and point others to Him. And because of that, I am intentional about my wardrobe. When others look at me, I want them to be directed to my smiling face, my words, and my Savior – not my curves, thighs, and cleavage. Modest clothing should be a reflection of a humble heart committed to honoring God.

I love how John MacArthur puts it: "How does a woman discern the sometimes fine line between proper dress and dressing to be the center of attention? The answer starts in the intent of her heart."

"A woman should examine her motives and goals for the way she dresses. Is her intent to show the grace and beauty of womanhood? Is it to reveal a humble heart devoted to worshipping God? Or is it to call attention to herself, and flaunt her...beauty? Or worse, to attempt to allure men sexually?"

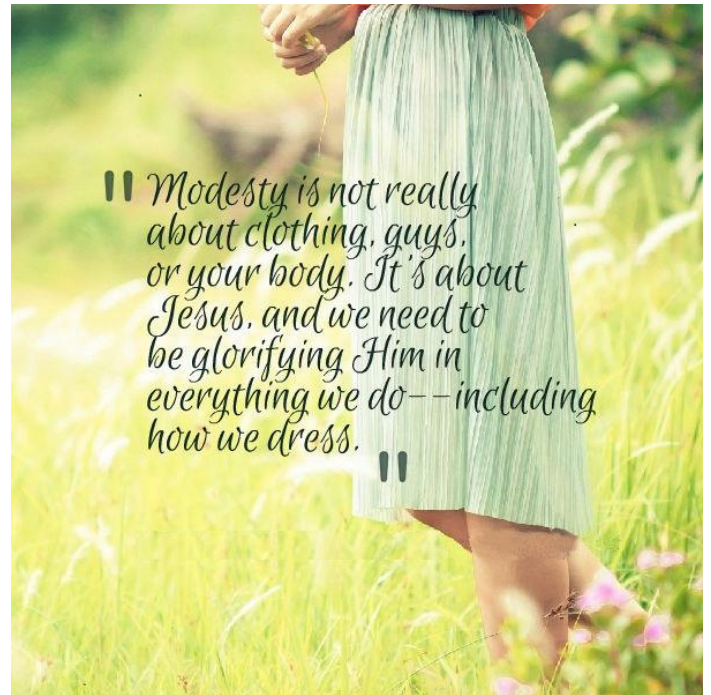
"A woman who focuses on worshipping God will consider carefully how she is dressed, because her heart will dictate her wardrobe and appearance."

Three Views Of Modesty (Adapted from an article from Bill Hall by Brent Hunter)

Three women face the problem of modesty. All three recognize the teaching of 1 Timothy 2:9: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array" but their attitudes toward modesty differ

considerably. The first woman takes the "Where do you draw the line?" view. If someone could draw the line for her (at the knee? ankle? calf?) and prove by the Bible that it was the line separating modesty from immodesty, she says she would abide by it.

But meanwhile, until someone comes up with where the Bible line is exactly, she wears what she wants to. If anyone approaches her about her immodesty, she justifies herself with one question. "Where do you draw the line? This was followed by one observation, "Grandma wore her dress at the



ankles, you know."

The second woman takes the "Follow the dress code" view. She has listened to sermons on modesty and established a code of dress by which she lives religiously: no shorts, no halters, no bikinis, no short shorts, high neck, etc. She is a good woman and is to be commended for her conscientiousness, but it has never "dawned" on her that a woman can dress by her code and still be worldly, suggestive, and immodest in appearance. She would be shocked to learn that reasonable people consider her immodest at times in how she carries herself.

The third woman is concerned about dress but is more concerned about the character of which dress is a reflection. Recognizing Bible teachings concerning

purity and chastity, she has become genuinely pure and chaste, not only in her conduct but also in her heart and disposition. She is pure "through and through," "inside and out," and her clothing reflects that purity.

Decency of dress is not a mechanical "follow a dress code" type of thing with her. It is a natural outgrowth of her modesty from within. While other sisters in Christ grope with I Timothy 2:9 and wonder why the Lord would be so restrictive in their dress, she sees that teaching as being perfectly natural, an obvious supplement to the Bible's teaching concerning purity and chastity of heart and life.

Her dress reflects her character in other areas. For instance, she seeks to be ladylike in heart and demeanor, and this attitude is reflected in her dress. She remembers the warnings in the scriptures concerning pride and has become truly "poor in spirit."

This is also reflected in her dress. Her dress, in every way, is a true commentary on her character. One glance reveals that here is a pure, ladylike, humble, and genuine woman. And is this not what 1 Timothy 2:9 is teaching? The verse says we must dress with modesty, shamefacedness, and sobriety. When we all develop these three qualities in our hearts, then – and only then – will our problems of dress vanish.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
(Matthew 5:16)

4 Guidelines for MODESTY



- 1.** If you have trouble getting in or out of it it probably isn't modest
- 2.** If you have to be careful sitting or bending in it, it probably isn't modest
- 3.** If people look at any part of your body before your face, it probably isn't modest
- 4.** If anyone can see any of your most private parts (cleavage to thighs), or the outline of your undergarments through the material, it probably isn't modest

Modesty is more than a fashion statement. It's a daily decision to dress like the princess of God you were created to be



For Aaron's sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty. So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests. And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. (Exodus 28:40-42)

Take the millstones and grind meal. Remove your veil, take off the skirt, uncover the thigh, pass through the rivers. Your nakedness shall be uncovered, yes, your shame will be seen; I will take vengeance, and I will not arbitrate with a man.
(Isaiah 47:2-3)

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
(Galatians 2:20)

DRESS FOR JESUS!