

COVER YOUR NAKEDNESS

Author Unknown

It is that time of year again, that time when many evidently feel compelled to take “it” off and let “it” show. Out of the closet, come the short shorts, the halter tops, the low cut, the skin-tight, the backless, side-less, frontless, outfits, the string bikini, and all other manner of more or less inadequate clothing for boys and girls, and men and women.

Into the public eye, come the half-clad, quarter-clad, and virtually un-clad bodies shamelessly flouncing around everywhere people are allowed to go, including to the church building. Some of these more-naked-than-dressed folks reveal some mighty attractive features by their skimpy attire and make the devil’s work of tempting others a whole lot easier (Jam. 1:14-15); others have nothing to show that appeals to anyone other than the deranged, but they seem not to know this or just don’t care how disgusting a sight they present.

The sin discussed is called immodesty. It clearly violates 1 Timothy 2:9 and Bible principles, like “love your neighbor,” and “do good unto all men” (Mat. 22:39; Gal. 6:10). The immodestly dressed with attractive bodies delight those looking for a wrongful stirring of their passions and both the “oogler” and the “oglee” brazenly display woefully small regard for God’s will, for their own soul, and for the soul of anyone else (Mat. 5:28; 7:21; 18:6, 1 Tim.2:9). The ugly-bodied folks who dress immodestly show just as much disregard for God’s will and for their own soul. They may entice no one to sinful lusts, but they are still guilty of putting on public display that which God deems as nakedness.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

In the lead sentence of this article, the first “it” stands for appropriate attire. This “it,” especially during the summer months is removed for no good reason, but with a host of excuses: “***It*** makes me too hot.” “***It*** is not appropriate for the vigorous activity I engage in.” “***It*** is not what everybody (most everybody, lots of folks, or at least somebody) else is wearing.” “***It*** is out of style this time of year.” “I don’t like ***it***.”

Others, trying harder to fool themselves, as well as any others foolish enough to be so deceived, try to justify their immodesty by claiming that God has not described the clothing He would have people wear; they therefore conclude that they are at liberty to bring the hem line up, the neck line down, and bare their middle from Dan to Beersheba. However, these folks have missed a bit of what God has said on the subject of modesty. Moses taught regarding the priestly attire, “**thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover the flesh of their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach**” (Exo. 28:42; ASV). Of course, we do not today live under Mosaic law, but nakedness is a term that spans the covenants. Do you know of any New Testament passage that indicates a change in what God considers nakedness? Even without the definition of

nakedness, one can so dress as to know that he is well within God's will for modesty. Thinking persons who care about godly living consistently dress modestly everywhere they go.

Appropriate attire, insofar as the lower body is concerned, is set out clearly in the cited passage, that is, from the waist to the thigh.

INAPPROPRIATE EXPOSURE

The second "it" stands for those parts of the human body which ought not to be shown in public. After eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve knew they were naked and made themselves "aprons" of fig leaves. The word for *aprons* means a "loin covering" or "loin cloth." The text later notes that God made them coats or tunics of animal skins (Gen. 3:21). While this may not be a complete argument against inappropriate exposure with only the fig leaves, it certainly shows man's realization that it is inappropriate to expose parts of the human body.

The devil has shown his power in being able to convince people that certain special occasions justify immodest dress. Folks who would never think of wearing so little as their underwear to answer their own doorbell, will brazenly wear a two-piece (not to say the typical one-piece swim wear would be modest) swim suit all over the public beach, swimming pool, and maybe to the supermarket. Girls and women who would not think of raising their dress up to reveal their leg from bottom to top to show "it" all, will wear shorts so short that they do exactly that, show it all! Men who would turn ten shades of red if a woman walked into the men's room, will jog around miles of city streets with little more on than a doily.

Again, excuses are made for showing what is inappropriate to show. "O" the immodest girl or woman will say, "It's all in the mind of those dirty old/young men. If they'd just keep their mind out of the gutter, there'd be no problem with 'it'" That is right lady there are dirty old and dirty young men and you are giving them an eyeful of "it." There are also old and young men trying their best to keep their hearts pure and you are making their efforts all the more difficult by your inconsiderate immodesty in showing "it." Others, and some of them men, will say "O, I don't have any problem with 'it.'" Evidently, they think that everybody is just like them and could walk through a nudist colony without a thought contrary to Heaven's will. Or, could it be that these folks are exaggerating just a tad? No matter, everybody is not exactly the same regarding sexual stimulation, but the vast majority of men—listen up here ladies and girls—the vast majority of men are considerably challenged to keep their thoughts pure and you have no right to make that task more challenging.

Moses also wrote by inspiration of God, "**Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not uncovered thereon**" (Exo. 20:26; ASV). God who gave you the body you have, declared parts of it as nakedness and indicates in Old and New Testaments that nakedness is not for public viewing.

CONCLUSION

Summertime, with its enormous increase in immodesty, is not the only time for this sin. Even in the coldest months there are the near-nudes who cannot tell what the weather is, or simply justify freezing their inappropriately exposed parts for the approval of men. Such things ought not be at any time of the year and will not be among God's truly loyal few. Nevertheless, among those who regularly attend services and who, at least from regular observation, appear to be walking in the light, reveal their brains have slipped out of gear by allowing their kids to disrobe and go swimming at the local pool and their daughters to be cheerleaders; I do not mean to condemn cheerleading per se, but have in mind those cheerleaders who wear the 6 inch skirts which expose leg flesh from bottom to top when standing straight up. The longer skirt is no improvement if the girls are still going to kick their legs, skirt and all, as high as they can as they point their toes at the stars and reveal just about all of their femininity to the world. What father or mother in their right mind wants their daughter so exposed?

One of the most obvious points about our Christian lives as directed by God through the Bible and as different from the world, is our day to day dress in public. It is noticed by everyone who sees us. Those who see us immodestly dressed, see a lesson leading them away from the truth, right, and God.

Do you care enough for the souls to be sure that you and yours are dressed so as to please God and help your fellow man? (Jos. 24:15). Your soul depends on your so caring (Mat. 7:21; 22:37-40).~