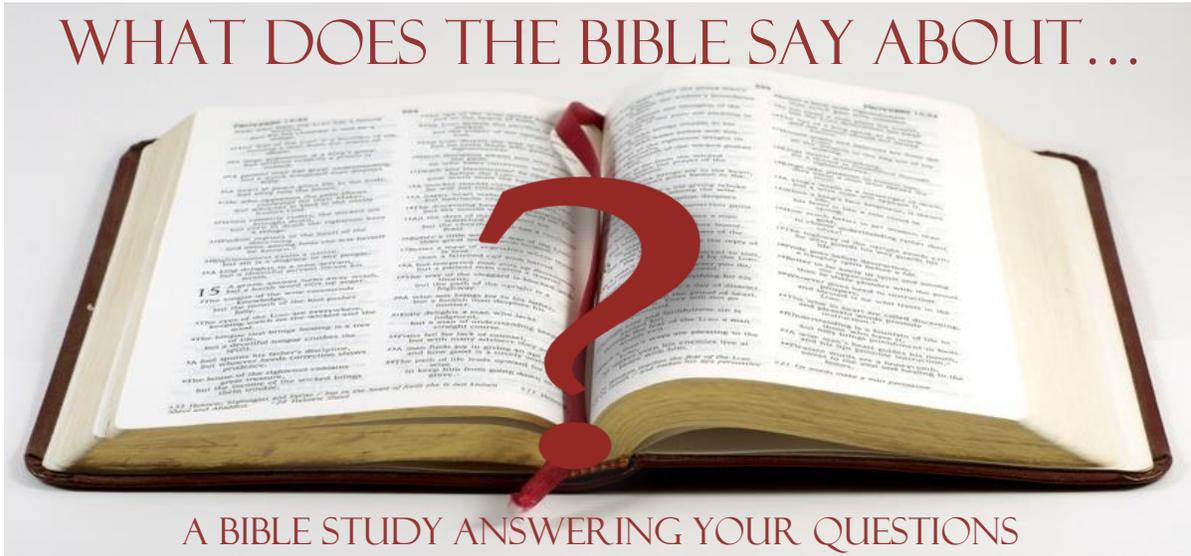


WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT...



A BIBLE STUDY ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Lesson One:

Modesty and the clothes we wear?

Does how we dress have anything to do with our relationship with God?

Is God concerned with how we dress?

Are there biblical principles on the subject we should know about?

Do these principles apply to all generations of people regardless of culture?

Do these principles apply to all cultures, American, African, Indian, Polish, Spanish, Swedish, etc....

A note from Pastor Tryon:

Dear Saints,

There are here today some of you who have been in the church a long time, others that are new or newer in the church. Some of you have not heard teaching yet on this topic.

Here's what I ask of you. If you are new, or, if you have not yet come to a full understanding of how we as Christians ought to dress, let this lesson inspire you to pray and seek God for understanding and be willing to follow what the Bible teaches.

This may be, especially in our day one of the most volatile topics we could discuss. But, we must seek what the Word of God teaches. These principles in the Word of God are unchangeable regardless of culture or personal feelings.

I ask you, even if you don't agree with me, or if at the moment, you don't follow or understand fully these teachings, to not get upset. Pray and ask God to help you, and He will.

Our church loves you! When you get a greater understanding of what the Bible says, follow it. Just like when you realized you needed to repent, get baptized in Jesus Name, and receive the Holy Ghost. You may see other things that need to change.

My wife and I, and our staff are available to help you to a greater understanding.

Sincerely,

Pastor Warren Tryon

Does how we dress have anything to do with our relationship with God?

Matthew 6:31-32 ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1 Samuel 16:7b For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

People say, "It's the 'heart' that matters."

My response: "But, I can't see your heart."

You will see that the Bible has much to say about modesty, clothing, attitudes, etc...

Pride can easily be shown in how we dress. Rebellion, a haughty spirit, and lust; these and many more can be seen in how we dress and act.

So, to answer the question, how we dress reflects our obedience or rejection of God's Word and our understanding of what it says.

Yes, our clothing says much about us and it is a direct correlation to where we are in our walk with God.

Proverbs 7:10, "And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart" (NASB).

Her attire identified her as a harlot. What kind of person does your attire identify you to be? Does it identify you as a holy person? Does your appearance send a clear message that you are a Christian, or are people left wondering?

Is God concerned with how we dress?

God covered Adam and Eve's nakedness. Gen. 3:21

Isaiah 3:16-26 ¹⁶ Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing *as* they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: ¹⁷ Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. ¹⁸ In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of *their* tinkling ornaments *about their feet*, and *their* cauls, and *their* round tires like the moon, ¹⁹ The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, ²⁰ The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, ²¹ The rings, and nose jewels, ²² The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, ²³ The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. ²⁴ And it shall come to pass, *that* instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; *and* burning instead of beauty. ²⁵ Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war. ²⁶ And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she *being* desolate shall sit upon the ground.

If the above Scriptures are any example at all of how God feels, then the answer to the question "Does God care about how we dress?" is clearly a YES!

1 Timothy 2:9 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;

Although this Scripture is directed at women, it applies to men as well.

God wants us to be dressed modestly. His church is His bride. Let's dress with Him in mind.

Are there biblical principles on the subject we should know about?

Principle number one:

Clothing is given for a covering. **Genesis 3:21** Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Principle number two: (Is it worn by the opposite sex?)

There ought to be a clear distinction between Men's and Women's clothing.

Deuteronomy 22:5 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.

If God is "the same yesterday, today and forever", and if in the Old Testament it is an "ABOMINATION" for men to wear women's clothing and for women to wear men's clothing, then it's still an abomination today.

Abomination: *disgusting* (moral), i.e. an *abhorrence*; especially *idolatry* or an *idol* :- abominable - abomination: Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

1. anything abominable; anything greatly disliked or abhorred
2. intense aversion or loathing; detestation
3. vile, shameful, or detestable action, condition, habit, etc. Dictionary.com

In short, God hates it!

Now comes the debate... What is Men's clothing and what is Women's clothing?

What kind of car do you own? Ford, Chevy, Toyota, Van, sports car, truck, compact, luxury???

Although it's been re-designed thousands of times, it's still a _____. It's not a boat, plane, or a submarine.

No matter how the design changes, its primary purpose remains the same, it's a car.

The same principle applies to clothes, in every culture, throughout all generations.

Dresses are clearly clothing for women and pants are clearly for men.

Of course the topic goes much further than this... It's not just about dresses and pants; it covers all articles of clothing.

You won't catch me dead carrying a "man purse"!

Blouses = ladies, shirts = men.

There is men's underwear, and ladies...

There are men's shoes and ladies...

The "principle" applies to all clothing.

Some might say, it's similar, but it's not the same. It's specifically designed for women/men.

Let's go back to the illustration about the car. If it has the same function, and the same initial design, it's still a car. If its initial design was for men/women than it is still, men's/women's clothing.

That brings us to the next principle:

Principle number three:

Modesty!

1 Timothy 2:9-10 ⁹ 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; ¹⁰ But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Ok, you might be saying by now, "What's with this "picking-on-women-thing" the Bible seems to be doing?"

It's really not, "picking on women". The fact is that how a woman dresses and acts has great effect on men. Not so much men on women.

When was the last time you ladies sat down and "checked out the guys"?

Now, the principle of modesty is the same for both sexes.

Immodest is revealing, Modest is not. Immodest draws attention, Modest does not.

Low cut, cleavage, and revealing is immodest.

Tight, short, and skimpy is immodest.

Do you dress modestly? Think about the things you wear, are they pleasing to God? If you were to go shopping with Jesus, would you buy the clothes that you do?

You don't have to walk around looking like a "nun" or a "priest", but you can dress modestly.

The Scriptural principle is "modesty".

Modest: Orderly, good behavior, observing the proprieties of dress and behavior: decent, unpretentious. Free from showiness or ostentation (boastful, showiness).

See-through, is not modest. Naked is not modest.

Again, the principle applies to men: Button up your shirt. Wear appropriate clothing, not tight or revealing, etc...

For me, I won't wear shorts in public, I may with my family in private but I won't in public.

Shirtless, tank tops, muscle shirts, "wife beaters"... Again, the same principles apply.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 ⁹ 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; ¹⁰ But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Shamefacedness = means without make-up.

Sobriety = self-control.

Not with "broided" hair = Broided is not "braided". Broided means with gold, silver, costly items intertwined in the hair.

Gold, pearls, costly array = Jewelry, anything that has the intent to "decorate" or fashion, in a way to present pride, or draw attention. (More on this in another lesson)

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

So here's the argument again. "Man looks on the outward appearance; the Lord looks on the heart".

Yes - you got it! "Man" looks on the outward.

See it, "Man", looks....

I can't see your heart, but I can see how you dress...and how you dress is sending me a message.

And yes, you may be able to fool me by your outward appearance, but you can't fool God.

If God looks at the heart, what does He see when he looks at you? Does He see someone who is seeking Him or does He see someone seeking the world?

Zephaniah 1:8 And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.

Strange apparel:

Even in jail, wearing similar clothes, there are ways to tell what gang you belong to, or your sexual orientation.

Matthew 7:20 - "Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them." (NIV)

Principle number five:

Holiness:

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Without it, you will not see the Lord. Not my words...

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Matthew 6:25-34

As Christians, when we make any decision, our foremost consideration should be, "What does Scripture say about this?"

Look for commands, whether positive or negative, that provide guidance.

Do any examples apply to the situation?

What principles within Scripture bear upon the decision?

In determining your appearance, including what you wear, the styles you choose, and your manner of grooming, it is of prime importance that you bring yourself before the mirror of the Word of God, rather than the mirror of the world, and take a careful look.

Through your appearance, whom are you attempting to please? Yourself? Your peers? The Lord?

Ephesians 5:8-10 ⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: ⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:15, "And He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" (NASB).

Will the decisions you make regarding your appearance enhance or detract from your effect upon those around you as salt and light?

Matthew 5:13-16, (You are the salt of the earth)

When people observe your appearance, is their impression one of holiness?

What do you see?



1 Peter 1:14-16 ¹⁴ As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance; ¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Does your emphasis on appearance indicate a love for the world?

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ 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. Have you allowed your appearance to be stained by the world?

Does your appearance suggest a friendship with the world?

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. When you meet someone, are they first attracted to your outward adornment or your inward radiance?

1 Peter 3:3-4 "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of Gold of great price".

Does your appearance reflect an attitude of reverence?

Titus 2:3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Could your appearance in any way cause someone to stumble?

Romans 14:13 "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this--not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way" (NASB).

What kind of example does your appearance set for others, both in the world and in the body of Christ?

1 Timothy 4:12-13 ¹² Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Is your appearance unisex?

Deuteronomy 22:5 "A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God" (NASB).

Does your appearance reflect a proud spirit?

Isaiah 3:16-26

Does your appearance represent an attitude of sacrifice or one of indulgence?

Romans 12:1-2 ¹ 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.

Does your appearance show restraint?

1 Timothy 2:9 "Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; but rather by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness" (NASB).

History of Clothing

Our generation is not the only one that has struggled with the issue of appearance. Throughout history, the dress of nations has often displayed some form of immodesty or extravagance.

We live in an ever-changing world when it comes to the clothing styles that society adopts at any given time. The world seems to have no fixed standard by which to govern its apparel.

But is this true for the Christian, the child of God, the one who is striving to live a life of holiness before a holy and eternal God?

Is our apparel governed solely by the ever-changing winds of the world? Or, are we governed by the higher and unchangeable standard of God's Word?

Let's make a clear difference between ourselves and the world. Let's stand in the old paths. Those who are giving up high, plain standards of holiness in dress and are moving closer and closer to the fashions of the world should remember that the world is moving farther and farther from God's Word.

Four questions to ask yourself:

1. IS IT WORN BY THE OPPOSITE SEX?
2. WHAT DOES IT MAKE OTHERS THINK OF ME?
3. MUST I USE THE ARGUMENTS OF THE WORLD TO JUSTIFY IT?
4. WILL IT CAUSE OTHERS TO STUMBLE?