



Calling Out to Those Who Pass By

Proverbs 9:14-15, 7:6-15

A Covenant with My Eyes

- There are certain biological factors that cannot be denied
 - There is the reality that men are visually attracted to women, and have the propensity to gaze at them with desire
 - Likewise, it is also evident that, consciously or unconsciously, women dress and act in such a way as to attract this kind of attention

Feminine Modesty: The Other Side Of The Question

- Women, you are the object of this often uncontrolled desire common to men
 - This desire is not intrinsically evil
 - You have the potential to represent a stumbling-block to men

Feminine Modesty: The Other Side Of The Question

- Christian women have the responsibility to keep their temptation to display from becoming a stumbling-block in a brothers' path
 - Rom. 14:13 - “Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.”
 - While there are some men who will lust regardless of how you are dressed, what is under your control makes you accountable

What Are Some Reasons Women Give For Dressing Immodestly?

- Never taught differently
- Examples of other women (mom, sister, friends, media)
- Ignorance of its effect on men
- Desire for love from someone of the opposite sex
- Lack of love for others (defiance, rebellion)
- To attract attention
- To show off
- Difficulty in finding modest clothing
- Selfishness
- Insecurity
- Wrong role models
- Love of the world, lust of the flesh, pride of life
- Clothes ill-fitting (due to weight-gain, pregnancy, etc.)
- Inadequate funds to buy replacements when clothes wear out

What Is The Real Reason?

- “It's our culture that teaches females to exploit their looks. It's a Western notion that women, it doesn't matter if they're married or not, need to appear sexually attractive to other men in order to have self-worth. It's a big part of the source of their power. Women don't feel like real women unless other men find them sexually attractive. This is what fuels the age-defying make-up industry, plastic surgeons, and the fashion world. Men display their wealth, power, and status while women display their appearance and sexual appeal. Many women find that it is the only thing they have going for them. A woman's instinct for display is as strong as a man's instinct to look.” (Alan Auerbach, 7/24/06, General Psychology, Allexperts.com)

Survey Of Men Regarding Feminine Modesty

- Short skirts (above the knee) 87%
 - Shortness was the major factor, tightness the second
- Pants (snug) 48% Tightness the major factor; low cut waists
- Sweat pants, jeans, casual attire 44%
 - Some comments: Casual in worship services may imply casualness in moral issues
- Shorts 89% - Main issue, above the knee; tightness a factor
- Shirts, Blouses 75% - Cleavage exposure mentioned most often
 - Sheerness, belly exposure also mentioned
- Tube or tank tops, spaghetti straps - 91%
- Dresses 62% - low cut, short, tightness were issues

Survey Of Men Regarding Feminine Modesty

- 54% of men admitted that they went on a date where their date was wearing clothing that was not modest
- 85% of those men said that they never asked their dates to dress more modestly, some admitting that they liked it that way
- 46% of those men thought that what their date was wearing was causing others to struggle with temptation

Relevance?

- These numbers tell you that men are having problems, and the majority are saying that part of the problem is what you are wearing
- In a survey taken among Christian men at Norwalk, OH, just over half of the men said that they have struggled with temptation in the assembly because of the immodest nature of the clothes the women were wearing

Relevance?

- 1Tim. 2:9-10 - “in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”
- Rom. 14:13 - “Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.”

Relevance?

- Yes, the men need to control their eyes and thoughts; I have already preached that
- While you may not see the problem with what you are wearing, if what you are wearing is causing your brothers to fight temptation in worship services, you need to ask yourself, what is your reason for wearing it?

Application

- You can actually cause a normal, well-balanced man (not some kind of pervert) to SIN if you wear provocative and revealing clothing
- And if you dress that way knowing that will be the result, you are a partaker in his sin

Application

- 1Peter 3:3-5 - “Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves...”
- I am not suggesting that women should dress dull or drab, but rather in such a way that does not attract undue attention to their bodies, but rather to their Christian spirit

Maintaining Modesty

- Look at yourself from all angles in the mirror.
- View yourself in a mirror held at the vantage point of a taller man. Turn around and bend. Sit down as you normally do.
- Make time when dressing, so that if you find yourself uncomfortable with your level of modesty, you have time to change.
- When in doubt, don't buy it
- Ask your husband, brother, father about the clothing in your closet. Don't ask why or argue, just listen and learn for the time being. As men, they have a reason for their observations
- If you're a girl still at home and you have a godly mother, listen to her when she's telling you your clothes aren't modest
- Find a godly girl or woman who dresses modestly, and ask her to help you.
- Study the Word of God and pray for understanding

Why So Much Emphasis On Modesty?

- Modesty reflects an understanding of what a woman truly is.
- Modesty isn't about dressing in unattractive clothes; it is finding clothing that brings out a woman's beauty without revealing her sexuality.
- Modesty attracts the kind of men a Christian woman wants to attract.
- Modesty helps to protect women as a needed defense against misuse.
- Modesty sets a good example.
- Modesty states that women are worthy of respect.
- Modesty helps your brothers to avoid lust.
- Modesty allows your true beauty and quality to be seen.
- Modesty is a virtue and a fruit of the Holy Spirit.