Reading: Gen 3:1-21

MODESTY

Who's standard should Christians follow for modest clothing? Clothing standards are not set by warmth, modesty or decency. They are set by the fashion world and clothing industries. These company standards are set by what sells. The companies are only after money at the expense of your souls. The fashions world does not put Gods description of modesty into their equation of what clothes should look like. God gave man and women the natural desires one for the other, but with guidelines. Marriage is the way of making God happy when we want to fulfill our natural desires one for another, knowing that when two people are joined together they become one flesh. What God put together let no man put asunder or remove or undo. What does God say about lusting one for another?

Matt 5:27

[27]Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: [28]But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

If you look upon a woman to lust after her you have committed adultery with her in your heart. You see God knows the thoughts and intents our hearts and minds. Now did God only give these thoughts to men only? No, both men and women have thoughts about the other sex.

So we as Christians should take into consideration of others. We need to ask ourselves, am I causing someone to have inappropriate thought by the way that I am dressing?

1John 2:16

[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.

Now if the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life are wrong for Christians, which it is. If you and I want to be pleasing to God we have to take into consideration of what Modesty means to God.

Heb. 13:8

[8]Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. God will not change his views on what is decent clothing, No matter what the world is willing to except. Let's get one thing clear in our minds. The world belongs to satin. We are taken out of the world when we put on Christ and become Christians. We, at that time should be willing to give up the

worldly pleasures, realizing that God has plans for us. To look like and act like worldly people is not one of his planes.

Who should we try to please as Christians the world or God? When we chose clothing to wear, we should take into consideration, do I want to cause someone to lust after me by exposing parts of my body that should be covered and causing someone to commit adultery in Gods eyes? In the eyes of the world this is called fashionable clothing. It is fashionable because it is governed by Satin, He controls the worldly standards of desirable clothing. Yes to look sexy may cost you your eternal life while enjoying the pleasures of this world.

When a friend or loved one dies, and we attend the funeral services out of respect for there family, we wear decent and apropeate clothing. I think that you will agree with this. Why would you think it not as important to wear the same respectful clothing when we come to worship our Lord Jesus Christ?

The apostles showed us how and when we are to come together and the Lord gave us the why.

LUKE 22:19

[19]And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

When you come together, do this in memory of me. What are we remembering? The death burial and resurrection of Jesus, and to give thanks that God so loved us, to extend a hope of salvation though his son, if we would only keep his commandments. I ask, "Is a person of the world more important to us, that we would show more respect to them than we would to our Lord?" When we come together, we are not alone, our brothers and sisters are here also. "Hence, the commandment is fulfilled, to come together," on the first day of the week. If we respect the families of our own deceased by not wearing disrespectful clothing to there memorial service, why would you not respect your brothers and sisters in Christ by wearing respectful clothing to the memorial service of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are told to admonish one another.

Rom 15:14

[14]And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Why because we find ourselves being influenced by the world in our everyday lives more than we realize, and only by caring enough for each other, would one turn to admonishing.

What are some types of disrespectful clothing?
Shirts that bear logos of sexuality, Beer or alcohol, and your favorite sports team are on them. Dresses that would expose too much cleavage, shorts, indecent pants for men and

women and skirts that bare too much skin. This cannot be ignored when passing the communion emblems around.

If you are uncertain, ask yourself "would I honestly wear this to my best friends funeral service"? This needs to be apart of your decision-making when you are considering what you are going to wear when you see the Lords day coming.

Now, its man's nature to lash out in defense of your life's choices, isn't there a scripture in the bible that talks about judging a person concerning his clothing?

Yes there is, let's turn and read what is says.

James 2:2-7

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; [3]And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: [4]Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? [5]Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? [6]But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? [7]Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

The definition of vile is unacceptable. Now this person was wrongfully judged because of what he was wearing not taking into consideration that he was wearing these clothes because he was poor. He apparently had no choice of what to wear. It must have been all that he could afford. I would not want to be the one to offend anyone here at worship because of there clothing, if you are wearing this clothing not by choice. We are obligated to see to others needs, not just our own.

Phil 2:3-4

3 *Let* nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

But if this is the case, I, and others will gladly help you purchase other clothing to give you a choice of what to wear.

So far I have talked about our appearance at church services. But does our image change when we go home to our everyday lives? Who teaches our children about morality or decency? You, the parent does. Example: when your children are just babies and they run around the house naked, do they know at some time this will not be expectable? No, they don't and if you don't teach them they would think that this is acceptable. But we as parents teach them to be modest and to cover themselves when changing their clothes. They learn very fast even to be embarrassed by there nakedness. But, by us being influenced by what the world deems to be expectable, and fashionable

we lose something, the ability to be embarrassed. We want our children to look like the rest of the children at school. Unfortunately the children and what is expectable is out of control. Children wear pants that are too tight, to short, and barely come to the top of their hips. Their shirts only come down part way showing there belly buttons. And you as parent think that you will not have a morality problem when your children reach there teen years. Don't undo decency. Keep modesty, and maybe your children might not lose the ability to be embarrassed. But this is in your hands as parents. Be a Christian by what you wear as well as what you confess to be. Remember, if you look like a duck, and you walk like a duck, and you like going where ducks go. The world is going to think you are a duck, even if you don't.

1 Thes 5:22
[22]Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Avoid the very appearance of evil.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. It is in love to you all that I bring these words.