

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Modesty

"A good youth ought to have a fear of God, to be subject to his parents, to give honor to his elders, to preserve his purity; he ought not to despise humility, but should love forbearance and modesty. All these are an ornament to youthful years." – Ambrose

"Modesty forbids what the law does not." – Lucius Annaeus

"Modesty is not only an ornament, but also a guard to virtue." – Joseph Addison

"Nothing can atone for the lack of modesty; without which beauty is ungraceful and wit detestable." – Richard Steele

"Modesty used to be considered a natural female attribute. No more." – Linda Chavez

Merriam-Webster provides two definitions of *modesty* - "the quality of not being too proud or confident about yourself or your abilities; the quality of behaving especially dressing in ways that do not attract sexual attention."

While the first definition does not seem to be a terrible problem within the church, the second certainly is. We find brothers and sisters in Christ showing an awful lot of their bodies seeking to mimic the ungodly of the world.

Granted the pressure seems to fall much more to the females, as it appears that males struggle with sexual desire to a greater degree. The apostle Paul writes, "I desire therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; 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, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works" (1 Tim. 2:8-10).

Yes, modesty can be an issue with those who would over dress and flaunt their excesses before others. But that does not seem to be the issue within the Lord's church. Instead we are faced with people dressing seductively.

During these warmer months, it is embarrassing to see the short shorts, the short skirts, the plunging necklines. It is troubling even for males to be without shirts. One fears that eventually with the corruptness in our society, that females will one day be topless.

We need to key in on Paul's admonition, that the dress "profess godliness." We often forget that we are living advertisements for Christ. "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ..." (2 Cor. 3:2-3).

It is troubling to see Christians trying to match the morals of the moral-less world. We are to let our lights shine and not see if we can wallow in the slop of the ungodly (Matt. 5:16).