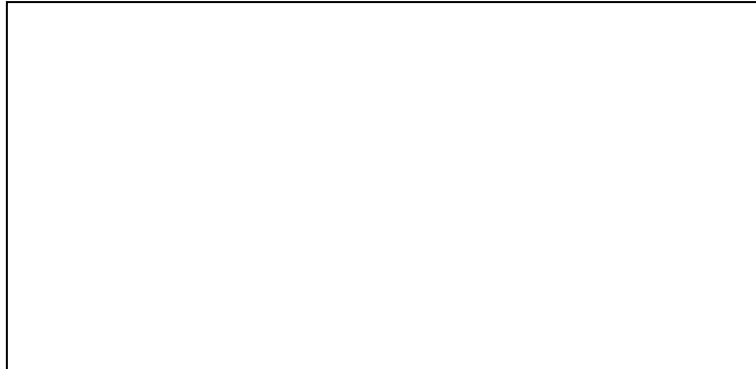


This Tract Presented By



HOLY  
BIBLE

# GARBED FOR GOD

(Modesty/Immodesty)

**"Also for Adam  
and his wife the  
Lord God made  
tunics of skin,  
and clothed  
them."  
-Genesis 3:21**

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mandate of God, we have seen His standards for modesty. Make sacrifices and follow them. A few more good questions to ask when clothing yourself:

- Is it doubtful?
- Could it be a stumbling block to others?
- Will it hurt my influence upon others for godliness?
- Would I mind if Jesus saw me wearing this attire?

His eye is always on you (Hebrews 4:13)!

## CONCLUSION:

In this tract, we have dealt with the idea of being Garbed for God. We have considered...

- The Mind of God...
- The Mandate of God...
- The Manipulation of Godlessness....
- The Modesty of the Godly.

What about you? You are supposed to be professing godliness with your attire.

- Be Garbed for God...
- Dressed for Deity...
- Robed for Righteousness...
- Clothed for Christ...
- And you will be Properly Professing.

## INTRODUCTION:

To be garbed is to be dressed in a distinctive way. There is a certain, distinctive way in which Christians ought to dress themselves. I'm dealing in this tract with how we dress when we come to worship services, although the principles will apply. But I'm addressing the subject of how we, as children of God, should clothe ourselves day by day. Just ask yourself questions before you begin. Think about the clothes you wear to work, to school, to work, to the mall, or grocery shopping, when you're casual, when doing yard work...

- Are you dressed for deity?
- Are you robed for righteousness?
- Are you clothed for Christ?
- Are you garbed for God?

Does your clothing befit one who is professing righteousness? Does your attire show too much of your body? Do you wear clothes that are tight fitting, low-necked, or skimpy? Do you wear short, tight shorts, or short dresses? Do you wear halter tops, or dresses with slits running way up the leg exposing your thigh when you stand, or walk a certain way, or sit down? Do you wear shirts or blouses that display your entire upper

womanhood when you bend a certain way? Many people don't even think about this kind of stuff. But you need to know that as a child of God, you must be concerned about the things you wear, the way you clothe yourself.

There are different types of people in different situations who will view the contents of this tract in different ways. Those who know better and dress appropriately will simply be reminded of these principles and encouraged to keep doing right without allowing the world to influence their standards. Those who have never heard this taught will be newly informed, and my prayer is that they'll learn to dress in a more modest way in the future. Those who have heard these kinds of lessons before, but stubbornly refuse to dress modestly, will be rebuked by this tract and hopefully submit their will to the will of God through repentance.

Having said all of this, let's talk about being Garbed for God. When we speak of the kind of garments which please God, I want to suggest to you four things we need to be aware of.

In the first place, we need to be aware of the...

## **I. MIND OF GOD**

On and on we could go with the excuses some people make to try and justify immodest apparel. The point is we should never make excuses. There is no excuse for violating the principles set forth in the word of God. This is just one of those sacrifices that some will have to make. The life of a Christian is a life of sacrifice. In the first century, many Christians were asked to lay down their very lives. And shamefully, we hesitate to lay aside our skimpy garments because of one of these excuses. I'm sure those folks could have thought of some good excuses to deny the Lord just for a moment so they could spare their own lives. *"I'm talented, and think of how many souls I could save if I live longer."* *"I'm young and have a long life of potential good service ahead of me."* *"I've got a family and they need to be provided for so surely God wouldn't mind if I denied Him just this once so I can live on to supply for my family. After all, Peter denied the Lord and then repented. Why couldn't I, just this once, to save my life and give my family the support they need."* However, the Lord commanded them to be faithful until death, in the face of death, at the expense of their lives! He didn't accept excuses then for not being faithful, and He doesn't accept them now. Dress modestly!!!

In looking at the mind of God, and the

**Excuse #8: If someone lusts after me, that's their problem, not mine, they ought to learn to control their mind.** Listen, if someone lusts after you, then they do have a problem they need to deal with. But, if you're immodestly clad, then you also have a problem. You have become guilty of "*lasciviousness.*" You are guilty of producing lustful thoughts in the minds of others. Jesus said in Matthew 18:6,7, "*But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes*" (NKJV)!

**Excuse #9: No one would lust after me.** As far as I'm concerned this is pure selfishness. How do you know no one will lust after you? Do you know what is attractive to other people? Do you know what other people are thinking? 1 Corinthians 2:11 says, "*For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?*" Why put a potential stumbling block in someone's way because you don't think anyone will lust after your bare flesh? The truth is different people have different tastes in different appearances in the opposite sex.

1 Corinthians 2, among other passages, tells us God's mind has been revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and recorded in His word. Therefore, I believe we can go to God's word and see what's in His mind regarding the type of clothes that pleases Him. What does He think is modest? What does He view as decent? In the first place, we need to understand that God views nakedness as a symbol of shame. The Lord said in Revelation 3:18, to the church at Laodicea, "*I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in fire, that you may be rich; and white garments that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed.*" Again, the Lord said in Revelation 16:15, "*Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.*" These passages are written in symbolic language. However, if symbols are to have any true meaning at all, they must be based upon the reality of true things. The Lord was using nakedness as a symbol of shame. This is how He views it.

We must also understand that when the Bible speaks of nakedness, it's not always talking about the same sense in which we normally understand it. When we think of nakedness, we think of someone who has on no clothes at all. They are bare. They are "in the nude." The Bible does speak of

nakedness in this way. Genesis 2:25 says about Adam and Eve, “*And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*” Adam and Eve had nothing on their bodies whatsoever. However, sometimes the Bible calls someone naked when they do have *some* clothing on. Not much, but they do have *some* clothing on, and the Bible refers to them as naked. For example, in Genesis 3:7, we learn that the eyes of Adam and Eve were opened because of their sin of rebelliousness in eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The text tells us they knew they were naked. It then tells us they sewed, or twisted, fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. Then, a little later, down in verse 10, after God had come down to the garden to search for Adam, when He found him, He asked him why he had hid from Him. Adam told God it was because he was naked. God agreed with him in verse 11 when He said, “*Who told you that you were naked?*” In fact, a few verses later (Vs. 21), we are told God made tunics of skin for Adam and Eve. This illustrates that God was not pleased with the clothing of fig leaves they were wearing. Hence, we are beginning to see the mind of God when it comes to what pleases and displeases Him regarding how people dress.

Job 22:6 is another place in which some who

Christians should compromise their activities for the sake of modest apparel, not compromise their modesty for the sake of participating in certain activities!

**Excuse #5: Brother or sister so and so wears this type of clothing.** So what? What if brother and sister so and so smoked marijuana? What if they committed adultery? What if they committed murder? Would this justify it? (Sadly, brethren have done these things).

**Excuse #6: I’m on vacation.** Listen, we take vacations from our jobs. And we may take vacations from our home towns. But, we can never take a vacation from God and his principles. You may take a vacation, or you may even go boating or fishing on the lake. I’m certainly not opposed to these things and neither is the word of God. However, when we go to these places, we need to be modestly clad! We don’t let the world set our standards in this area or any area.

**Excuse #7: I’m swimming.** Does this give you the right to show your body off to others? Swim alone or with those of the same sex. Or, swim fully clad with clothing that isn’t too skimpy or that doesn’t cling to you like sausage casings when wet. There’s nothing wrong with swimming, but we have no right to set aside God’s standards when doing so.

**events.** A Christian will argue that it's ok to wear immodest apparel because "that's what you're supposed to wear while playing this sport." I was once speaking with a well respected "mature" Christian who made it clear it was acceptable for a Christian to wear immodest shorts because "they're playing basketball." In the town where I grew up, the big institutional church in town announced in their bulletin congratulations to two of their young ladies for making the high school cheerleading team. These cheerleaders wore extremely provocative outfits. This was acceptable because "they are cheerleaders, and that's what cheerleaders are supposed to wear." What about volley ball on the beach? Is it alright for a Christian to wear two piece bikinis simply because that's what you're supposed to wear when playing volley ball on the beach? Suppose I decided to go to a nude beach. Would it be acceptable for me to walk around there nude simply because you're supposed to be nude on a nude beach? You would say, "No, a Christian should stay away from a nude beach." To this I say, "Amen." And using the same sensible reasoning, I would say a Christian should stay away from any event or sport which requires him to break God's principles regarding immodest dress! Whoever said I had to go to a nude beach? Whoever said I had to play certain sports?

had on some clothing were referred to as naked. It speaks of stripping the naked of their clothing. Now, if God considered Adam and Eve naked with the clothing they chose, the question arises; what did their clothing cover? The Hebrew word used for "*apron*", or "*coverings*" is *Hagora*, This word denotes a covering which covers the loins from the abdomen down; the pubic region and hips, anything from the midriff or waist, often covering the upper part of the hips. It compares to today's woman's girdle, traditional athletic shorts and the miniskirt. Now remember, this is what God considered naked and shameful. The coats or tunics of skin that God clothed them with comes from the Hebrew word *Kuttonet*. Gesenius, a prominent Hebrew scholar, says about this word, "a tunic...; generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees, rarely the ankles. " So, we get here a general ideal of what type of garments pleased God. We get from God's word an idea of the type of clothing which pleases Him.

However, there are other passages in which God was concerned about the type of clothing certain people wore. Look at Exodus 28:40-42. These breeches, or trousers, were actually the undergarments worn by the priests. The Hebrew word denotes something that comes just below the knees. Hebrew scholars all agree on this. Smith's

Bible dictionary says the word means, “scant or full, gathered around the waist...fastened just below the knee by garters.” The International Standard Bible Dictionary says it means, “A garment extending from the waist to or just below the knee.” The thigh, as defined by Hebrew words, is the upper part of the leg, extending down to the knee. Clearly, when God clothed Adam and Eve, He made them clothing that covered the entire upper leg, down to the knee. And when He spoke of the clothes to be worn by the Priests, He commanded something that covered the upper part of the leg completely, all the way down to just below the knee. So, we get an idea of the type of clothing that God’s mind thinks is modest. We get the mind of God. One man made this observation, “as Christians, We are spiritual priests offering up spiritual sacrifices to God. (1 Pet. 2:5), is it anymore right for us to display our bodies than it was for the Old Testament priests?” (Interesting thought)

Another aspect of dress from the mind of God is that He doesn’t desire for women to intentionally dress up to look like a man, nor for a man to intentionally dress up to look like a woman. Deut 22:5 says, “*A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment.*” The reason is given, “*for all*

and the sides of his face. The only flesh exposed on his body is his hands and face. Another picture is of three men traveling through the deserts of the Middle East. They also have their entire bodies completely clothed - very completely clothed, including the head gear which covers the entire head, neck and sides of the face. These folks didn’t need tests from the US army. They’ve had it figured out for years. They dress like this in the hot blazing sun because it helps keep them cool. They would think a man foolish to go out in this kind of heat in a bikini or in scantily clad clothing. The idea that it’s cooler to be naked when out working or playing in the sun is a myth. It’s a lie straight from the advertising agencies of Madison Avenue and many are being deceived by it.

**Excuse #3: It’s the style.** Christians try to justify immodest apparel because it’s what’s in style. Is this a plausible reason? God’s word doesn’t bow down to styles of men. The world’s patterns and styles may change, but God’s decrees and principles never do. Remember, we are not to pattern ourselves after or be conformed to the world (Rom 12:2). Our primary style is set by the word of God, not by the London fashion shows and designers.

**Excuse #4: It’s what you’re supposed to wear in certain events like certain sporting**



I say all of this assuming that it is cooler to wear skimpy clothing in the hot sun. The simple fact is, it isn't cooler to do so. When we consider the facts, we find that it's actually cooler to be well clothed in the hot sun rather than to be scantily clad. Years ago there was an article in my small hometown which was talking about a test the army had performed on this very subject. I suppose for the sake of clothing the military men who were serving in desert regions, they did tests to determine how a man could stay cooler in the sun. Their test results showed clearly that the human body stayed much cooler in the sun when fully covered, as opposed to being lightly covered. This got me to thinking about how these people in Arabia and the Middle East clothed themselves. They cover themselves completely! In fact, they're covered from head to toe.

I have a book put out by the National Geographic Society entitled Scenes From Every Land. There is one picture of a man traveling through Syria in the hot sun. He's clothed in a full white gown which fully covers his entire body, even his arms. There's another picture of a man who works as a mounted policeman in the Sahara. He's extremely clothed. He even has a huge hat on to block the sun, and what looks like a white towel wrapped around his head covering his ears, neck,

*who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.*" Listen, without trying to bind the Old Testament law, I believe we can safely say that what God viewed as an abomination then, He views as an abomination now. Today, we have effeminate men and "butchy" women; Folks who are cross dressers trying to look and act like the opposite sex. The mind of God says this is an abomination! God wants men to look and act like men and women to look and act like women, regardless of what might be acceptable practice in our society.

We've seen that nakedness is a symbol of shame in the Bible. Please understand, this doesn't apply within the marriage relationship. These things are fine within the confines of your home in the presence of your spouse. Heb 13:4 says, *"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled."* Naturally, God intends for spouses to enjoy the physical attributes of one another. This isn't what we're dealing with in this tract. We're dealing with the idea of what we wear in the eye of the public.

In talking about being garbed for God, not only do we see in the Bible The Mind of God in what type of clothing pleases Him, we also see the...

## II. MANDATE OF GOD

A mandate is something which is required. God, in His word, requires a certain type of dress for those who are His children. Consider 1 Timothy 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, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works”* (NKJV). Paul speaks here about the women and how they are to adorn themselves. Hence, ladies need to especially take note here. In speaking of how the women were to adorn themselves, Paul used three words or phrases. The First is “Modest apparel.” One scholar says of this word, “the well ordering is not of dress and demeanor only, but of the inner life; uttering indeed and expressing itself in the outward conversation.” This describes one whose clothing shows forth discipline and self control. When other people look at how this individual is clothed, they see someone who is genuinely moral, respectable, self controlled, well mannered, and honorable. Could this describe the “lady” whose clothing exposes most of her flesh; clothing which shamefully displays the flesh of her body? Could this be describing the modern day swimsuits, halter tops,

*faithful until death and I will give you a crown of life.”* History is very clear that many Christians were cruelly punished simply because they claimed Jesus as their Lord. We have accounts from historians where Christians couldn’t own land, or even secure a job, because they claimed Jesus as their Lord. I’m certain they would have been much more “comfortable” if they could own land or secure a job. But, they would’ve had to deny Christ in order to do this. History gives us detailed accounts of how Christians were beaten, imprisoned, stoned, and sometimes hung on crosses and burned alive. They were sometimes dressed in animal’s skins and thrown to wild beasts to have their flesh ripped apart. I’m certain they would have been much more “comfortable” if they would simply have laid aside the Lord’s principles. The fact is those who are Christians are going to have to endure discomforts in order to remain faithful to the teachings of our Lord. Therefore, even if it is more comfortable to wear skimpy clothing in the hot weather...so what!!!? God condemns this type of clothing and we should be willing to deal with a little bit of discomfort if necessary. Think of the discomfort the Lord endured on the cross for us! With modern day air conditioning, refrigerators, and a convenient store on every block that sells cold drinks, we’ve really got it pretty easy.

world is because they have justified it in their own minds with certain “excuses.” They have rationalized in their minds that dressing immodestly is acceptable. Consider some of these excuses:

**Excuse #1: Everyone else is doing it.**

Christians sometimes, believe it or not, rationalize immodesty based on the fact that everyone else is doing it. In light of all the passages we looked at above, this excuse should have already faded out of our minds. We are not to love the world...1 John 2:15. We are not to be friends with the world...James 4:4. We are not to pattern ourselves after the world...Romans 12:2.

**Excuse #2: It’s cooler and more comfortable to wear skimpy clothing in the hot weather.**

This almost sounds good. However, are you willing to throw away God’s standard of decency for the sake of keeping a little cooler and being a little more comfortable? Do men and women cease to lust just because it is hotter? I want to suggest to you that even if this was true, and I say “if” because I simply don’t believe it’s true and we’ll see why it isn’t in a minute. But, even if it were true that skimpy clothing were more comfortable in the hot weather, this still wouldn’t justify it. Since when is it alright to set aside what God has said about a thing so we can be more “comfortable?” Jesus said in Revelation 2:10, “*Be*

miniskirts, and short shorts? Could this be describing the extremely tight fitting clothes which clearly display every line and contour of the female anatomy? Even if we looked at no other words said about how one should dress, this should be enough to let us have an idea of the kind of mandate God has placed upon the way we dress.

Consider now the second word Paul uses here. He says, “*with propriety.*” Some versions say, “*Shame fastness.*” One Greek scholar says “‘shame fastness’ is that modesty which is fast or rooted in the character.” Her clothing reflects her character. Some clothing makes women look like harlots. Proverbs 7:10 speaks of the “*attire of a harlot.*” Harlots dress in such a way that either their flesh is exposed in plain view, or they are thinly covered with extremely thin and tight clothes. This is not how a woman of God should dress at any time! Yet, to the disgrace of the Lord’s church, I’ve seen many ladies dressed this way, even in the worship services! A harlot’s dress is meant to produce lust in the minds of men. This clearly indicates that some clothing can produce lust in the minds of men! Some years back, a group of Atlanta girls were asked, “*Do you seek exercise or the sun when you don a swimsuit?*” The girls said, “*Neither, we seek boys.*” They were seeking boys and they understood that the showing off of

their flesh would get them the attention they desired. Could these swim suits be classified as the attire of a harlot? If not, then would someone please tell me what type of clothing would be considered the attire of a harlot? Mary Quant, a well known London fashion designer and the inventor of the mini-skirt, said this about mini-shirts, “*Mini-skirts are symbolic of those girls who want to seduce a man.*” Listen, even those in the world recognize that this type of clothing produces lustful thoughts in the minds of men.

The mini-skirt, and any other clothing which displays the upper leg, or the thigh, causes lewd thoughts in the minds of men. And considering what Paul wrote here in 1 Timothy 2, this should not be the purpose of the godly woman. Consider what a 17 year old boy wrote to Ann Landers some years back, “*Sometimes it’s not in words, it’s in the way a girl gets herself together. The mini-skirts are a pretty good eyeful when a girl is sitting down, it’s like she’s wearing a bikini. No normal guy can look at all that flesh and not get ideas.*” Dear reader, if a non-Christian 17 year old boy can recognize that this type of clothing stimulates men, then surely those who are supposed to be godly minded Christians can recognize it! This boy continued by saying, “*Transparent blouses and sweaters and jeans that fit like sausage casing are*

*warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul*” (NKJV). The second reason people don’t know any better is because they simply reject the knowledge when it is given to them. People who like to wear their swim suits, or short skirts, or skimpy, skin tight clothing, displaying themselves to the world, simply ignore sermons on modest apparel, even if they hear it. They’ll say things like...

- “That preacher is just narrow minded.”
- “That preacher just has a hobby horse.”
- “That preacher needs to come down to earth and live in the real world.”

They reject the warning, and they reject the knowledge, and they chose to remain ignorant of the will of God regarding modest apparel. This was just the case of those we mentioned in Hosea 4:6. We quoted God as saying “*My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.*” But, the rest of the verse says, “*Because you have rejected knowledge.*” People simply reject the knowledge that could save their souls.

2) The second reason people dress like the

about the way we dress. He spoke clearly against anything that would tend to incite lewd thoughts in the minds of others (Galatians 5:18, 19). He spoke clearly about the principles which should guide the Christian woman in her dress in 1 Timothy 2:9, 10. So, if the Bible is so clear about this matter, why do we still see Christians dressing just like the world in the summer time? I want to suggest to you two reasons why so many are dressing like the world...

1) Ignorance. People are just not aware how concerned God is about the way they clothe themselves. Ignorance of the word and will of God has always been a destroying factor. God said in Hosea 4: 6, ***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”*** People today are destroying their souls by the way they dress (or undress) in public; because they simply do not know. There are two reasons why they don't know. First, Preachers just aren't preaching on it. We don't hear a lot of sermons on immodest apparel anymore. This will cause the destruction of both the preacher and those who hear him. Paul, in Acts 20:27 said that he had not shunned to preach the whole counsel of God. Preachers today need to do the same. They need to quit dancing around the works of the flesh. They need to stop bypassing 1 Timothy chapter 2. Ezekiel 3:18,19 says, ***“When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no***

*worn to get guys excited, and he wants to do more than just look.”* Like the Lord said in Luke 16:8, ***“For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.”*** If a child of this world, a non Christian 17 year old boy, can recognize what these types of clothing do to a man, then why can't the children of light, the Christians, recognize it and avoid it? “Christian” ladies are to be garbed for God, not clothed in such a way as to produce lewd, lustful thoughts in the opposite sex!

The third word Paul uses is ***“Sobriety”*** or ***“Moderation.”*** Women are to use sound judgment or soundness of mind when they clothe themselves. Ladies, do you think before you get dressed, wherever you are going? This word suggests that a woman think seriously and soundly about what she's going to put on and wear for others to see. What do you think when you are getting dressed? One lady suggested that in order to wear clothing that wasn't sexually enticing to the opposite sex, you should ask yourself FOUR questions before you put something on. I would suggest you ask these questions even when you are buying your clothes.

- Is it too short?
- Is it too tight?

- Is it too thin?
- Is it too short at the neck line?

In view of our modern clothing, I would add two more questions:

- Is it transparent?
- Does the slit come up too high, exposing my outer thigh?

Furthermore, in view of the application Paul is making here, let's add some more questions:

- Is it too gaudy?
- Is it too loud?
- Is it too expensive?

Paul is writing here in the first century. Other writers from the first century often describe the clothing of that day. Looking at what they had to say might give us an idea of some of the things Paul may have had in mind. Seneca, who lived from 4 BC until AD 64, wrote this, *“I see clothes of silk, if clothes they can be called, affording protection neither to the body nor to the modesty of the wearer, and which are purchased for enormous sums”* (Hmm, sounds suspiciously like our day). Another writer of that day, Pliny, spoke of *“silk*

God. The two concepts are opposed to one another, just as Jesus taught. John 15:18, *“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”*

If we are truly of Christ, truly followers of Jesus, the world isn't going to like us very much. So, we cannot please Christ and please the world. We have seen what the mind of God is - what He thinks is modest. We have also seen the mandate of God - the way He expects us to clothe ourselves. And, there is definitely the manipulation of godlessness. The world manipulates and tempts and pressures us to be like it; to walk like it, to talk like it, to act like it, and to dress like it. We must beware! Jesus said we need to be wise as serpents. Don't be deceived by the plotting of the worldly. Just because everyone else is doing it, doesn't make it right. So, we have seen, regarding being garbed for God...

- The Mind of God...
  - The Mandate of God...
  - The Manipulation of Godlessness.
- Finally, let's consider...

#### **IV. MODESTY OF THE GODLY**

We've already pointed out God's concern

child of God who is striving for true godliness doesn't want to be like an ungodly world! They don't allow a godless society to set their fashion standards. In fact, The Bible makes it crystal clear that God's child is not to be like the world. John tells us in 1 John 2:15-17, "***Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever***" (NKJV). James wrote in James 4:4, "***Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.***" To these, Paul adds, "***And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God***" (NKJV). And yet, this is what so many Christians seem to be trying to do. They're trying to appease both sides. They want to please their brethren and they want to please their worldly friends. You may be successful many times at appeasing your brethren and pleasing the world. But, you will never be successful at appeasing the world and pleasing

*clothes made of glass.*" Other writers wrote of clothes that clung to the female form and, in their words, "*left little to the imagination.*"

This is just the type of clothing that leads the style and the norm in modern day American dress, and it's just the type of clothing Paul condemned when he wrote (by the direction of the Holy Spirit) these words in 1 Timothy 2:8-10. Remember ladies, God mandates that you adorn yourselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation.

Verse 10 teaches that a lady should dress in clothing proper for women professing godliness. When men look at you they shouldn't see a lot of flesh exposed which could tend to induce lewd thoughts. Your clothes should say to them that you are a godly woman. Forget about the standards set by our godless society:

- Be Garbed for God...
- Be Dressed for Deity...
- Be Robed for Righteousness...
- Be Clothed for Christ...
- And you will be Properly Professing.

Does all of this apply to the men? Should the men also be concerned about how they dress? Certainly they should! Notice the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. The word "***Lewdness***" in verse 19 is also translated "***lasciviousness,***" or

*“licentiousness.”* It comes from a Greek word describing anything that tends to produce lewd or lustful thoughts. This would include the clothes we wear, and these things apply to men and women. The Bible does seem to put more emphasis on the way women dress as opposed to the way men dress. And, it may be that men are more apt to have lewd thoughts than women (questionable). However, to one degree or another, both men and women are prone to have lewd thoughts when they look at the opposite sex in immodest dress. And neither the man nor the woman should wear any type of clothing which might cause a member of the opposite sex to *“get ideas,”* as that 17 year old boy put it.

Jesus taught in Matthew 5:27-30 that committing fornication in the mind was as sinful as actual physical adultery. When a member of the opposite sex lusts after you, they have a problem; but if your clothing or actions caused them to have those thoughts, you also have a problem. Jesus said in Matthew 18:6, *“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea”* (NKJV). Romans 14:13 says, *“Therefore let us...resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.”* So Paul, in

Galatians 5 and in 1 Timothy 2, mandates that the Christian, man or woman, needs to be very concerned and conscientious about the way he/she dresses.

A good passage to keep in mind when you’re getting dressed, or when you’re buying clothing, is Romans 13:14. *“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust.”* Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lust!

Regarding being Garbed for God, we have seen...

- The Mind of God...
- The Mandate of God.

Next, let’s consider the...

### **III. MANIPULATION OF GODLESSNESS**

The society we live in is going to live like the world. They’re not interested in a holy God. They’re not interested in righteousness. They’re not interested in modest apparel. The world just wants to do what the world is doing; whatever’s in vogue, whatever’s the latest craze, or the latest fad. “Every one else is doing it,” we often hear. But, The Christian knows better than this. The Christian isn’t interested in this type of mentality. The true