

Christian Apparel - Part 2

To Be Like Jesus - Session Six

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Key Verse: (I Samuel 16:7) Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Does God really care what we wear? God knows the heart, and when it was time to choose a king, God chose one based on their character not on their physique. However, God teaches about appearance because people *do* look on the outward and express their values outwardly.

Distinction Between Sexes

(Deuteronomy 22:5, NKJV) The woman shall not wear that which pertains unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD your God.

Distinction Between Sexes

- “Abomination unto God”: moral teaching
- “Pertains”: clear distinction in all cultures
- There should be distinction between the sexes even from a distance

(Genesis 24:64-65) And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. (65) For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us?

Distinction between the sexes gives honor to our authority.

(1 Corinthians 11:1-6, NKJV) Be all of you followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. (2) Now I praise you, brethren, that all of you remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. (3) But I would have you know, that the head (authority) of every man is Christ; and the head (authority) of the woman is the man; and the head (authority) of Christ is God. (4) Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonours his head (authority). (5) But every woman that prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head (authority): for that is even all one as if she were shaven. (6) For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

What is Covering?

(1 Corinthians 11:14-15, NKJV) Does not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? (15) But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

Conclusion:

God still wants a witness in society for the distinction between male and female. If the church doesn't provide it, who will? God always gives us a choice in serving Him. We didn't choose our gender, but by our dress, our hair, and our actions we can either ratify or reject God's will for us.

(I 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.

People look on our appearance and determine what type of person we are. We are a witness, by the way we act, dress, and speak. The question is, what type of witness are we?

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(Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The first church was a good witness to the world. Do we want to do the same? Do we want to show Christ to a world that needs Him?

This concludes our series “To Be Like Jesus.” Paul said, “Be all of you followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). In others words, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ” (GodsWord). Let us imitate Jesus in our actions and speech.

From “Christian Apparel - Part 2” by David K. Bernard © 2003, adapted by Mark Starin.