

## NAKEDNESS AND THE BIBLE

### Introduction

1. Many falsely insist to modesty and nakedness are matters of opinion.
2. God, however, has spoken on this matter.
3. Godliness looks different (1 Sam. 16:7), and we will be describing a different kind of attire from the world.

#### I. What is nakedness?

- A. What we think of as naked may be different from the Bible definition.
- B. Nakedness is not the absence of *all* clothes (Jas. 2:15).
- C. Peter was naked while wearing only his undergarment (Jn. 2:17).
  1. The word "naked" is a translation of *gumnos* and means "clad in the undergarment only."
  2. Swim suits cover no more (and often much less) than underclothes. We may conclude that one is naked and therefore immodest when wearing such swim suits in mixed company as in a beach or swimming pool setting.
- D. Nakedness is first spoken of in the Garden of Eden.
  1. Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness (Gen. 3:7).
  2. They made aprons of fig leaves to cover themselves (Gen. 3:7).
  3. When they heard the Lord's coming, they hid themselves because of their nakedness (Gen. 3:8, 10).
  4. Note: Adam and Eve were wearing aprons, but they were still naked.
  5. God made them "coats of skin" (Gen. 3:21).
    - a. This action indicates that they were not properly clothed.
    - b. The aprons, *chagora* in the Hebrew, were loin cloths or hip coverings.
    - c. However the coats, *kethoneth* in the Hebrew, were long garments covering their shoulders to their knees.
- E. Read Exodus 28:42.

#### II. Why is our dress important?

- A. Anytime we do what we want to do (or wear what we want to wear) we are identifying ourselves as *fair-weather* Christians.
- B. The litmus test is doing what God says to even when we would rather do something else.
- C. I don't think it's an overstatement to say that the way we dress is a true test of our Christian commitment!

### Conclusion

1. Hard-hitting sermons are not easy to preach, and I don't enjoy them.
2. They are, however, a part of the counsel of God, and necessary for us to hear.

#### **Soul Mate Easier to Find Than a Swimsuit**

It's easier to find your one true love than it is to find the perfect swimsuit. That's the word from real women who answered a poll conducted by Parents magazine. Specifically 18 percent said it was difficult to find their soul mate, but a whopping 53 percent said it was hard to find a bikini that well, you know, covers the bulges and makes you look sexy on the beach.

--29 percent said giving birth was harder than finding the perfect swimsuit, reports Wireless Flash, which also offered these fun poll results:

-- 44 percent of women compare navigating the swimwear section of the mall to "having a root canal."

--30 percent would be willing to pay \$100 for a bathing suit that fit perfectly and covered up all their "trouble spots."

--26 percent say they've worn a bikini that's a real "fashion don't" too many times to count

<http://portal.compuserve.com/wrap/linker.asp?floc=wn-wm&ref=http://money.cnn.com/2003/11/07/pf/autos/annoying/index.htm>

## PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF MODESTY

[1 Timothy 2:9-10](#); [1 Peter 3:1-4](#)

In our immodest era, we as a culture have lost touch with the concept of modesty. Modesty is, nevertheless, a very important principle of life. This lesson will deal with modesty primarily as it relates to sexuality and with an emphasis on its relationship to women. Several of the thoughts were suggested by Wendy Shalit, author of *A Return to Modesty*.

### Cultural Observations (Acts 17:28)

1. No less a Feminist leader than Simone de Beauvoir acknowledged that if a society trivializes modesty, violence against women will result.
2. Our culture, however, expects women to be casual and matter-of-fact about sex.
3. The spirit of the age says, "If you want to be modest, be modest. If you want to be promiscuous, be promiscuous. That's the wonderful thing about this society, you can do whatever you want to do."
4. However, if people opt for adultery and promiscuity, the whole of society will be very negatively affected.
5. Would we accept an "If you want to save lives, save lives. If you want to kill people, kill people" kind of philosophy?
6. We have come a long way from a young lady relying on a father's protection in the 1948 song *Baby It's Cold Outside* to parents renting motel rooms for their children on prom night in 2001.

### Four Myths And Their Biblical Counterpoints

1. Modesty is a Victorian invention that is no longer acceptable.
  - a. Rebekah was not a Victorian (Gen. 24:64-65).
  - b. When we cover external features we are actually saying something from the heart that serves to distinguish our behavior from that of mere animals.
  - c. Modesty with regard to the more sexually suggestive areas of the body is as old as the Garden of Eden (compare Gen. 3:7 with 3:21).
  - d. 1 Timothy 2:9 demonstrates the need for women to be adorned in modest clothing and to stay within the limits of proper feminine discreteness.
2. Modesty is synonymous with being a prude.
  - a. A prude is one involved in an extreme or hyper display of modesty.
  - b. There is nothing wrong with a woman or a man being regarded as attractive (Gen. 12:11; 24:16; 29:17; cf. Song of Solomon).
  - c. Actually both promiscuous and prudish behavior prevent people from experiencing proper biblical spirituality.
  - d. Promiscuous and immodest activity reduce sex to a mere biological response to hormones.
  - e. Prudish, hyper-modest attitudes never allow our God-given sexuality to be realistically expressed .
3. Modesty isn't natural.
  - a. Modesty is actually to be cultivated as a natural, God-given aspect of how our conscience works (Jer. 6:15a; Eph. 5:11-12).
  - b. Sexual intimacy releases the hormone oxytocin, the bonding hormone, that God has given women, also secreted when they nurse. Modesty protects women from casual sex and the emotional and psychological feelings of bonding that could easily be produced. Women generally have a more difficult time in not ascribing unrealistic, long-term feelings to casual sexual encounters.
  - c. Modesty gives women a power they can properly use to encourage proper sexual attention while discouraging the improper kind.
4. Modesty is solely a concern for women.
  - a. Modesty helps even ungodly men behave as gentlemen (1 Pet. 3:1-2).
  - b. But when women do not behave as ladies, they need not be surprised when men don't act like gentlemen (Prov. 7:6-23).
  - c. Men must respect a woman's modesty if it is to be effective. Men must also refrain from improper dress and actions, even though their sins in the area of modesty do not usually create as many problems as do the sins of the ladies (I Tim. 5:2b).