

The young woman looked at him and said, "Why do you wear the special uniform you have on?"

He replied, "Because I serve the Rock Island Company, and comply with its orders in wearing it."

"My reasons are similar to yours," was the quick reply, "I have joined the church of Christ, and am in the service of my Master, whose orders I obey in dress according to 1 Timothy 2:9, where it is stated that women shall *"adorn themselves in modest apparel."*

The conductor acknowledged the force of her answer.

Ask yourself today,
"Whose uniform am I wearing?"

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Today, we have come to a crisis in the clothes' closet. Like the soldier in the civil war who put on the shirt of the north side and the pants of the south, there are many who are not decided about what apparel to put on.

Several years ago, I met a peculiar woman at a cooking class. I began to notice that every day she wore some variation of blue. By the end of the week I was bursting with curiosity. I was sure that blue must be her favorite color. Finally, I asked her, "I notice that you wear a lot of blue, is blue your favorite color?" I was even more shocked and puzzled when she answered, "No, purple is my favorite color." But she continued, "My husband likes it when I wear blue, it is his favorite color."

She was content in the love of her husband and was very happy to wear that which pleased him.

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Abomination is a very strong word. In Revelation we are told that *"whatsoever worketh abomination"* *"shall in no wise enter"* the New Jerusalem. In the New Testament, gender distinction in dress is again addressed in 1 Cor. 11:13,14. And Jesus reminded us in Luke 16:15 that *which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.* This means we have to learn to care more about what God says about how we dress, than about what is popular in our culture.

Additional instructions are found concerning dress in 1 Timothy 2:9,10 *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

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connected with serving God, and nakedness is connected with the service of Satan.

Before Adam and Eve sinned they were clothed with light in the image of God. *...O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment...* Psalm 104:1,2

Like Moses, after beholding the glory of God, they shone, so no nakedness appeared. (See Exodus 34:29,30) But, when Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God and eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, the Bible records that *...the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.* Genesis 3:7

When God came to visit them in the evening, they hid because they knew that they were still

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One point of interest is that they were commanded to wear breeches under their robe. *And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:* (Exodus 28:42)

This principle shows the necessity of modesty from all angles, whether we are sitting, standing, bending over, or climbing.

The priest and heads of household were also directed to have the people *"wash their clothes"* (Exodus 19:10) and *"change their garments"* (Gen. 35:2,3) before coming before the Lord.

God was also particular in how his people were to dress. In Numbers 15:38-41 we find that the clothing of God's people was to remind them of his commandments. The borders of the garments were to have a ribband of blue.

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molten calf, and have worshipped it, ... Moses saw that the people were naked... Exodus 32:7,8,25

One of the first evidences of Satan's control is the taking off of the clothes. In Luke 8 and Mark 5, we find the story of a demoniac in the service of Satan. In this case the man was naked until he gave his life to Jesus and was clothed properly. *... there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.* Luke 8:26,27 *For he [Jesus] said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.* Mark 5:8 *And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.* Mark 5:15

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Jesus said...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10 When we dress as God would have us dress, our clothing will be comfortable, allowing us to breathe easily and experience abundant living. When Jesus makes us free we will be found *"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:* 1 Peter 1:14

REVEALING THE RELIGION OF THE WEARER

Clothing is like a sign you hang out for the world. It may tell who you work for, where you are from, or whose side of the battle you are on. In Proverbs, the strange woman is detected by her actions and her clothing. *And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.* Proverbs 7:10

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Delliah; the wisest man—Solomon— was led into evil by a multitude of women; and even King David fell into sin after seeing the nakedness of Bathsheba. (Judges 16, 1 Kings 11, 2 Sam. 11) Jesus said a man commits adultery if he looks at a woman and lusts. *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.* Matt. 5:27,28

Because of this, a kind Christian woman should never wear clothing that would cause her brother in Christ to fall. *It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.* Romans 14:21 The Bible also directs us to *Abstain from all appearance of evil.* 1 Thess. 5:22 This would also eliminate fashions that are so "see-through" or tight that

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naked, even thou they were wearing aprons of fig leaves. They were ashamed because they were now wearing the uniform of the enemy. The Bible records, *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.* Gen 3:21 Biblically, wearing only a little bit of clothing is in God's sight equal to nakedness. But, even though Adam and Eve had to suffer some of the results of their sin, God in his mercy, forgave them and again gave them clothing. Further on, in the story of the golden calf, we find that when the people departed from God and broke his commandments --nakedness was the result. *And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a*

Today, with plunging necklines and other equally compromised clothing, it would be well if the borders of our clothing also reminded us of the commandments of God. *"Thou shalt not commit adultery"* is to be displayed in the height of our necklines and the length of our dresses. Instead of asking what do I want to wear, we should ask *what does God want me to wear?*



God also directed his people, *The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.* Deuteronomy 22:5

It is the same with us. God manifested his immense love toward us when he sent his Son to die for our sins that repentant sinners might have life. (1John 4:9) *We love him because he first loved us.* 1John 4:19. Like a contented wife, our love for Him compels us to cheerful obedience to his commands. *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.* 1John 5:3 When our hearts overflow with love for Christ we will want everything we wear to be His uniform.

The Bible establishes 3 purposes for clothing--modesty, health, and to reveal the religion of the wearer.

MODESTY vs. NAKEDNESS

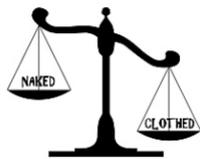
If you follow dress styles throughout the Bible you will quickly find that being clothed is

In other words, clothing reveals character and we are to be adorned with good works. Like the flowers we need to have a beautiful fragrance on the inside too. Our clothing should mimic the simplicity of the flowers, for Jesus said, *Consider the lilies how they grow... I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.* Luke 12:27

The next time you have a crisis in the clothes closet consider this story.

A young Christian woman was on her way to Kansas. One day, the conductor of the train sat down opposite her, and politely asked why she dressed so plainly. She inquired what his motive was in asking the question. He replied that his wife talked much about the necessity of women dressing plainly, while he did not see any reason for doing so.

they give the appearance of nakedness. Perhaps it would be well to consider, where on this scale can you place your clothes?



SUITED FOR SERVICE

One of the original purposes for clothing was to insure health to the wearer. Clothing should provide warmth, comfort and protection. After sin, man needed a covering to keep him warm. Proverbs 25:20 talks about a garment for cold weather. The wise woman described in the Proverbs *"is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with double garments."* [Pro. 31:21, margin.]

The limbs should be well clothed to protect against the cold of winter in order to promote good blood circulation. Our clothing should also be clean, durable and suited for service. Again and again God directed his people to wash their clothes (and their skin) to avoid the spread of disease. In addition, Isa. 23:18 speaks of durable clothing in connection with the people of God *...for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing.*

It is such a blessing to know that God wants our clothing to be practical and comfortable. Unfortunately, the cruel goddess of fashion often requires her subjects to wear shackles on their feet so that they cannot run, or clothing that is so tight that they cannot bend over and move or breathe properly. This is not God's plan. His first gift to man was the breath of life.

As one man put it plainly, *"Can we conclude that the mass craze for nudity is based upon modern devil possession?"* (Creeping Compromise pg. 28)

It is interesting that in Isaiah 47:3,4, God connects making the upper part of the leg bare, with nakedness. *...uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen...* In this prophetic description the veil was also removed exposing who the harlot was because in Bible times harlots often covered their faces. (See Gen. 38:15)

We might compare the exposure of the legs to the public boast of Mary Quant, the inventor of the miniskirt. *"Miniclothes are symbolic of those girls who want to seduce a man."* Throughout time some of the greatest men have been seduced to evil by a woman. The strongest man --Samson-- was seduced by

As we saw before, nakedness and lack of modesty is connected in the Bible with those who serve Satan. The story of Jehu killing the worshippers of Baal (2 Kings 10:20-28) also suggests that pagan worshipers were recognized by their clothing/vestments. *"It is a universal principle in all idolatries that the high priest wears the insignia of the god he serves."* (The Two Babylons pg.45)

God gave very specific directions concerning how the priests were to be dressed. Their clothing was to be for *"glory and for beauty"*. (Ex. 28:2,40) Our clothing also should glorify God. We are told, *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.* 1 Cor. 10:31

God has made us kings and priests (Rev. 1:6;5:10; 2 Peter 2:9) and we could learn some important principles from the priest's garments.