

CLOTHING: INSIDE OUT



WHY DO WE WEAR CLOTHING?

Some examples from the Bible

NAKEDNESS

- A mark of shame
- A sign of judgment
- A loss of identity

ISAIAH 3

Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, walking with heads held high and seductive eyes, prancing along, jingling their ankle bracelets, the Lord will put scabs on the heads of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will shave their foreheads bare.

On that day the Lord will strip their finery: ankle bracelets, headbands, crescents, pendants, bracelets, veils, headdresses, ankle jewelry, sashes, perfume bottles, amulets, signet rings, nose rings, festive robes, capes, cloaks, purses, garments, linen clothes, turbans, and shawls. Instead of perfume there will be a stench; instead of a belt, a rope; instead of beautifully styled hair, baldness; instead of fine clothes, sackcloth; instead of beauty, branding.



ISAIAH 47

Take millstones and grind flour; remove your veil, strip off your skirt, bare your thigh, wade through the streams. Your nakedness will be uncovered, and your disgrace will be exposed. I will take vengeance; I will spare no one.”



I TIMOTHY 2

Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.



-
- κόσμιος: Modest, proper, ordered
 - αιδώς: “as a moral feeling, reverence, awe, respect for the feeling or opinion of others or for one’s own conscience, and so shame, self-respect ... sense of honour.”
 - σωφροσύνη: “good judgment, moderation, self-control.”

In short: appropriate, common-sense, modest attire

I PETER 3

Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.



-
- “Your adornment...” The Greek word is “κόσμος”, again connected to the root “cosmos.”
 - The contrast: Our adornment is *not* fancy hair, gold, dresses.
 - The real beauty: The hidden person of the heart.

JAMES 2

My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in, if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Sit here in a good place,” and yet you say to the poor person, “Stand over there,” or “Sit here on the floor by my footstool,” haven’t you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?



AN INCOMPLETE SUMMARY

- Our clothing choices should be inside-out. Appropriate, respectful, modest.
- Clothing is not our core identity – our status as “his workmanship” is.
- We do not judge people on what they wear.

Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”

It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

